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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIII.—NO. 19. WEEKLY EDITION. MARCH 18, 1876.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 9, 1876.

SENATE.

The following bills passed:

An act to authorize the establishment of schools for the education of deaf mutes in certain cases.

An act relieving members of beneficial societies from individual liability for lodge indebtedness.

The act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of commercial companies, and also of companies to receive and execute trusts, whether by way of mortgages or otherwise, relating to the estates of individuals and the estates and franchises of corporations, was defeated.

An act to revise and amend an act, entitled "An act dividing the cities of this State into three classes; regulating the passages of ordinances; providing for contracts for supplies and work for said cities; authorizing the increase of indebtedness and the creation of a sinking fund to redeem the same; defining and punishing certain offenses in all of said cities, and providing for the incorporation and government of cities of the third class," approved May 23, A. D. 1874, passed second reading without the amendment put on it which came from the House. This is Mr. Long's reclassification bill.

The Bank bill was taken up, and Mr. Newmyer made a speech against restricting interest on time deposits. He claimed it would discourage economy and savings banks.

Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of companies, and also companies to receive and execute trusts, whether by way of mortgages or otherwise, relating to the estates of individuals and the estates and franchises of corporations. The vote by which the above act was defeated in the morning session, was reconsidered—yeas 33, nays 8, and passed third reading—yeas 29, nays 9.

The following bills passed second reading:

Act for the incorporation and regulation of banks of discount and deposit.

Act to establish a nautical school in the city of Philadelphia.

Act defining the obligations of railways as to mortgages, when mortgages are held in other States.

Act relating to the exemption of property from levy and sale on executions on distress for rent, declaring the waiver thereof by a debtor, except in writing, void.

Act authorizing the wardens of the penitentiaries of the State to subscribe for and distribute papers or periodicals to convicts.

Act to change the place of holding sessions of the Supreme Court for the Middle District and to provide for fitting up and furnishing suitable rooms for that purpose.

Act to repeal an act entitled "A supplement to the several acts relating to the city of Pittsburgh, enlarging the boundaries," The vote on Mr. Woods' South Side Secession bill, and was amended so as to leave the question of secession to a vote of the South Siders.

Mr. Anderson moved to indefinitely postpone, which was not agreed to, and the bill passed second reading.

Supplementary act to repeal the act to permit the voters of this Commonwealth to vote every three years on the question of granting licenses to sell intoxicating liquors, and to restrain and regulate the sale of the same, approved April 12, 1875, declaring the true intent and meaning thereof with reference to the fees which could be under the provision of said act. Under the provisions of the present license law, fees for licenses granted are paid into the Allegheny County treasury, and by law one-half are appropriated to Workhouse purposes. The above act seeks to have them all paid into the State Treasury, the same as license fees paid by the rest of the State, and will take from Allegheny county, or the Workhouse, about forty thousand dollars annually. Pending consideration the bill went over.

SENATE adjourned.

HOUSE.

The Bituminous Ventilation bill came up in special order.

Mr. Long moved a substitute, which he claimed contained all the important requirements of the original bill. It does away with mine inspectors, which was objected to by the operators, but provides if complaints are made to the courts of unsafety of the mines, two mining men, and if they report the mine unsafe, the Court by injunction shall close the mine and it cannot be worked, the costs of inspection shall be paid by the informer.

Mr. Jackson, of Mercer, objected to the substitute, and made an able speech criticising it. His principal objection was that it dispensed with mine inspectors, which are necessary to any measure of mining safety. After conclusion, the bill was defeated.

The bill were willing to accept reasonable modifications, such as those suggested by Mr. Dravo, on Tuesday night.

Mr. Lilley, of Luzerne, strongly supported the original bill.

Speaker Patterson opposed the substitute, unless provision was made for mine inspectors.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Wolfe for the original bill and Mr. Huhn against.

A petition from miners of Fayette county, praying for the passage of the Ventilation bill, was read.

The report of the Conference Committee in relation to the act to appoint additional notaries public, was adopted.

Bills Introduced—Act to provide additional remedies for the unlawful mining of coal from and other minerals in the Commonwealth.

Supplementary act providing for the health and safety of persons employed in coal mines, approved March 31, 1870, making neglect to comply with section first of said act a misdemeanor.

At the afternoon session Mr. Long's substitute was defeated, and the bill came up by sections for amendment, in Committee of the Whole, Mr. Christy in the chair.

Several amendments were agreed on, when Mr. Talley, of Delaware, proposed to give the Secretary of Internal Affairs, with the Governor, the power of appointment. This gave rise to a prolonged and acrimonious debate, the Republicans opposing it and charging the Democrats with an attempt to place them in a false position, while they insulted the Governor. Extended remarks were made by Messrs. Talley, Jackson, Hunsicker, Browne, Long and others, the latter continuing to speak till the hour of adjournment arrived.

The bill may come up to-morrow, but an effort will be made to postpone it till Tuesday. The debate was very exciting, taking a political turn. All the debaters in the House took part. An impression prevails that the bill will pass with amendments.

The caucus of the Democratic members of the House was held this evening, and was largely attended. It was agreed that no bills should be read in place or introduced after March 31, that all bills in the hands of the various committees should be reported by the 31st to the House. There was no action taken upon the time for final adjournment, and it looks as though the session would be continued until about May first.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 10, 1876.

SENATE.

The following bills passed finally:

An act to provide for changing the location of the principal offices of certain corporations.

An act to establish a nautical school in the city of Philadelphia.

An act authorizing the wardens of the penitentiaries of the State to subscribe for and distribute papers or periodicals to convicts.

The act to repeal an act, entitled "A supplement to the several acts relating to the incorporation of the city of Pittsburgh, enlarging the boundaries," &c., was laid over.

The act to amend the act of April 28, 1873, entitled "An act to reapportion the Congressional districts of Pennsylvania," so as to attach the new township of Collier, in the county of Allegheny, to the Twenty-second Congressional district, passed second reading.

HOUSE.

Mr. Stotzer offered the caucus resolution forbidding the introduction of new business after the 24th of March, which was agreed to with only two dissenting votes.

Mr. Thornton presented petitions of citizens of Allegheny asking an increase of the jurisdiction of aldermen; also a petition of oil refiners praying for the repeal of the bill regulating the sale of petroleum.

The following bills passed third reading:

An act requiring the Judges of the Supreme Court to file written opinions, and to designate such as they may deem necessary for publication.

An act to confirm conveyances of lands made by savings fund, building and loan associations after the expiration of the term of their charter's existance.

An act requiring the appeals from judgments of aldermen and justices of the peace.

Senate bill relating to bail for stay of execution in cases where such bail is likely to prove insolvent.

Unanimous consent was given to Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, to call up the bill granting a pension to Joseph McCallister, a soldier of the war of 1812, which passed second reading.

Mr. Morgan also presented a petition from the citizens of Lawrence county asking that an act be passed making the legal rate of interest six per cent.

The Committee on Appropriations has passed the Morganza appropriation of $170,000, with conditions which will place the majority of the Board of Managers and the Superintendent within the control of the Board of State Charities. $150,000 of the sum for the Morganza property is to be paid in eight annual payments. There will be other legislation to carry out the recommendations of the Investigating Committee.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 13, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 8 P. M.

The Conference Committee's report in regard to the appointment of additional notaries public was, on motion, recommitted.

Bills on first reading occupied the entire session.

The Governor sent the following nominations to the Senate:

Mahlon H. Dickinson, of Philadelphia, to be Commissioner of the Board of Public Charities for the term of five years.

Joshua W. Jones, of Dauphin county, Superintendent of Public Printing for the term of one year.

John Munnel, to be Justice of the Peace for the township of Marion, county of Greene, until thirty days after the next election.

John W. Humes, to be Coroner of Blair county until the first Monday of January, 1877.

Anthony Long, to be Sealer of Weights and Measures for Cambria county for the term of three years.

James Graham to be Justice of the Peace for the township of Bloomfield, in the county of Crawford, until thirty days after the next township election.

The following were appointed Notaries Public for a term of five years:

John S. Davison, Newton Petre, J. J. Howard, Samuel Smith, Frank Semple, Walter Morris, Francis Torrence, Oliver S. Richardson, Alfred L. Watkins, Thomas M. Brady, Wm. Little, George H. Woods, A. G. Tim, F. D. Storm, Frank Kelley, Lawrence Sands, Henry Yeager and John S. Walther. Of the above, the last two are of Allegheny city and the others from Pittsburgh. Wm. J. Wright, Kittanning, Armstrong county; John Peacock, Armstrong county; Isaac Waldron H. Dame, Petrolia, Butler county; Howard Kerr, Foxburg, Clarion county; Henry M. Bredin and B. J. Buck, of East Brady, Clarion county; Isaac Hall, Irvington, Du-Bois, Clearfield county; Wm. C. Jackson, Union City, Erie county; Samuel S. Spencer and Jacob F. Walther, of Erie, Erie county; Wm. H. Hutchinson, Brownsville, Fayette county; John Kurtz, Connellsville, Fayette county; J. P. Mitchener, Carmichaels, Greene county; James B. Nicholson, Washington, Washington county, Alexander Brubaker, Berlin, Somerset county; Samuel Foust, Meyersdale, Somerset county; J. H. Donley, Franklin, Venango county; Charles H. Noyes, Warren, Warren county; Samuel P. Keller, Washington, Washington county; John S. Markell, Monongahela City, Washington county, and James H. Sayers, Greensburg, Westmoreland county.

HOUSE.

The House met at 7.30 P. M.

The following petitions and remonstrances were read and properly referred:

Mr. Hays—Remonstrance of property owners of the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-second wards of the city of Pittsburgh against the bill to change the present programme of the act incorporating the city of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Toner—Petition against abolishing the Poor District of Westmoreland county.

Mr. Irwin—Petition of inhabitants and taxpayers of the Eleventh ward of Allegheny city for the repeal of the act annexing them to said city.

Mr. Wise—Petition of citizens of Greene county to fix county salaries at or less than the present standard.

Petition of citizens of Fayette county praying for the passage of an act according to said county the provisions of the act of March 10, 1873, allowing school teachers their time and wages whilst attending county institute.

Bills Introduced—Mr. Long—Act referring to the sale of passenger railways, extending the time for the transfer after filing certificate.

Mr. Graham—Act extending the provisions of the mechanics lien law to parties contracting with sub-contractors; also an act extending the provisions of the mechanics lien law to property corporations.

Mr. Plummer—Act in regard to reform schools in the Commonwealth. Section one provides that no reform school in this State shall not send any child under seven years of age to such institutions.

Section second, that managers and superintendents of reform schools shall forthwith forcibly and vicious shall be sent back to the county to be dealt with in the courts.

Section third prohibits the contract system in said institution.

Mr. Zern—Act repealing the local option liquor law in the townships of Elizabeth and Lincoln, Allegheny county.

Mr. Jackson called up the bill to repeal the iron-clad liquor law relating to Mercer county, which had been reported from the committee affirmatively, and had the same recommitted to the Judiciary General Committee.

The following bills were reported from committees affirmatively:

Act to prevent unlawful mining of coal; also for the more proper ventilation of coal banks.

Supplementary act authorizing the formation of partnership associations in which the capital subscribed shall alone be responsible for the debts of the association, except under certain circumstances. Passed second reading.

A concurrent resolution was offered urging the presentation of a medal or some mark of distinction to the five military companies of the Commonwealth who first responded to the call for troops in the late rebellion, as follows: National Light Guard, of Pottsville; Washington Artillery, of Pottsville; Ringgold Artillery, of Reading; Allen Infantry, of Allentown; Logan Guard, of Lewistown. A letter from Hon. Simon Cameron, certifying to the correctness of the above, was read. The resolution was agreed to.

The House concurred the report of the Conference Committee on the act empowering camp meeting associations to employ police force.

The House appointed Messrs. Chrisman, Irwin and Parker a conference committee on the act to change the place for holding sessions of the Supreme Court for the Middle District and to provide for fitting up and furnishing suitable rooms for that purpose. The Senate has appointed Messrs. Strang, Winslow and Dill. The remainder of the evening session was taken up by the passage of bills on first reading, among which was the Fres Pipe Line bill.

Adjourned.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 8, 1876.

The discussion of the Miners' Ventilation bill, in the hall of the House last night, was kept up until midnight, both the operators and the operatives being heard. The result will be, I fancy, that some kind of a bill on the subject will pass. The operators, as I understand, do not object to the passage of a mine ventilation bill; they merely object to some of the details of the pending measure.

I owe the House an apology for saying in yesterday's letter that there was no prospect of its passing the Senate bill to carry out the provisions of the Constitution relative to establishing the salaries of county officers in counties containing over 150,000 inhabitants. The House, to-day, sent over the Senate bill to the Senate with sundry amendments which do not improve the bill, and the Senate promptly non-concurred, so that it will go to a conference committee, where the details of the differences between the two Houses will be arranged.

The Senate to-day, for the second time, defeated the bill allowing defendants in criminal cases to testify. It has been the occasion of a lively and interesting debate, but has never commanded the strength necessary to carry it through. The "Jones" bill, to prevent the practice of vivisection by medical and scientific men also went to the demition bow wows. The main reason for its defeat appeared to be that it entrusted the punishment of offenses under it to magistrates and justices of the peace, instead of making the practice indictable. The humane people of Philadelphia were very naturally shocked at the cruelty to animals caused by taking them to pieces while alive, and asked to have it stopped; but their zeal was very crude one, and so badly framed that it seemed a worse policy to pass than defeat it. The medical members of the Senate were all enemies of the bill and they opposed it on the ground that vivisection is essential to new scientific discoveries, which can be made in no other way: but Mr. Jones showed that the main use in such medical cases was to illustrate known scientific truths and not for discovery. The real difficulty of the bill was in attempting to make the cruelty punishable by summary conviction.

Dr. Wood's argument against the measure was that, as the Almighty had given to Man unquestionable dominion over the beasts of the field that Man had a perfect right to do whatever pleased him with all kinds of animals. He cited the rites of sacrifice given to the Jews as evidence of this, and contended that cruelty to animals was one of our human perogatives. He quoted very liberally from the Pentateuch to prove this position, but omitted all reference to the passage which directs that the ox which treadeth out the corn shall not be muzzled, and that other passage which commends the merciful man for being merciful to his beast. The dominion of man over the animals does not include the right to be cruel to them; and the right to kill animals for food or for sacrifice can in no way be tortured into a right to cut up an animal when alive and expose it to the most painful of physical sufferings. Cruelty can never be justified, and the interests of science do not require it. Dr. Wood's argument reminded me very forcibly of the old slaveholder's plea that every man was at perfect liberty to wollop his own nigger.

The House Committee on Appropriations has reported back the General Appropriation bill, with the provision retained appropriating $500,000 for the expenses of this session of the Legislature. This will be the amount needed for a session of 150 days, and the purpose to defy public sentiment, by uselessly prolonging the session for the sake of the ten dollars *per diem*, is apparently as strong as ever. If the Democratic members think there is no hereafter, they will stick to this suicidal policy; but it is more probable they have concluded that the State is sick of them, anyhow, and that they may as well make as much money as they can out of their present opportunity. They are not likely to have the chance again.

Mr. Anderson called attention, to-day, to a scurrilous article in the Scranton *Sunday Dyess*, written by the indicted Sergeant-at-Arms of the House, charging dishonesty and theft upon Senators Watson and Anderson. The occasion of this libel was the opposition of these Senators to a pet bill of Mr. Stanton, of Luzerne, which many Senators thought unconstitutional, and the writer had no other justification for his base arraignment of members of the Senate. He has already been once or twice tried for embezzling $10,000 of the school money of Scranton, and he is not the man to charge dishonesty upon others. It was at first thought advisable to bring the libeler before a Senate committee; but the expression of the members of both parties was so general against him as unworthy of notice, and in attestation of the fact that the two Senators alluded to were above and beyond suspicion, that the subject was dropped without further action upon it.

SPECIAL.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

France.

THE NEW MINISTRY COMPLETE.

PARIS, March 9.—The French Ministry has been definitely constituted as follows:

M. Dufaure, Vice President of Council, Minister of Public Worship and Minister of Justice.

M. Ricard, Minister of the Interior.

M. Waddington, Minister of Public Instruction.

M. Christophle, Minister of Public Works.

M. Teisserene de Bort, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

Admiral Fourichon, Minister of Marine.

M. Leon Say, Minister of Finance.

General de Cissey, Minister of War.

Duc Decazes, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

All the members of the new Cabinet belong to the Left Center. The Ministry will communicate with the Chambers tomorrow, when it will present its programme or through a speech by M. Dufaure.

THE CABINET UNSATISFACTORY—GAMBETTA'S STRENGTH—VICTOR HUGO AND AMNESTY.

PARIS, March 11.—The Dufaure-Ricard Ministry, chosen as it is entirely from the now comparatively small group of the Left Center, cannot last. The unmistakable symptoms of discontent at the ministerial selection leave President MacMahon discouraged and uneasy. On the other hand, in proportion as the discontent takes organization, as Leon Say's speech, it becomes more confident and hopeful, and is undoubtedly the most powerful man in the Parliament.

Victor Hugo is the leading figure in the movement for a general amnesty to the exiled and imprisoned Communists and will shortly make a demand therefor.

THE DANUBE FLOODS—GREAT LOSS OF PROPERTY IN PESTH AND VICINITY.

BUDA-PESTH, March 12.—In five small townships along the river Danube, 521 houses collapsed from the 7th to the 9th inst., in consequence of their foundations being damaged by the floods. In Pesth and its suburbs it is impossible to count the houses which have been ruined. Four hundred square miles of winter corn have been lost in Hungary. The foundations of 1,000 houses in Pesth are being undermined, and if the inundation lasts, huge blocks of splendid houses must fall. On the 8th instant, the large island of Csepel, situated below Pesth, containing five villages, was submerged, all the houses, with the exception of ten, being swept away.

LONDON, March 13.—A telegram from the *Pesth Lloyd* says the waters of the Danube show signs of subsiding. The distress is increasing. A large dam has burst, and 50,000 additional acres of land, on which are several villages, are inundated.

Germany.

BISMARCK AT WAR WITH CHINA—THE FOOCHOW OUTRAGE TO BE PUNISHED—AMERICAN AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS SUPPORT GERMANY.

BERLIN, March 11.—Prince Bismarck is determined to exact the fullest satisfaction from China for the plunder of the schooner Anna at Foochow, the Chinese pirates, after murdering the captain and pilot, being protected by the legal authorities. The American and British Governments support the German claims. The British Admiral Ryder has ordered armed assistance. The Germans, who will support the British in the Asiatic waters, consisting of four corvettes, mounting in the aggregate 52 guns, and two gunboats, mounting twelve guns. The British and German squadrons will assemble at Hong Kong for joint action.

A LANDSLIP IN THE NORTH—TWENTY-SIX PERSONS KILLED.

LONDON, March 11.—A landslip occurred last night at Caut, a small town on the Rhine, in Northern Germany, caused by the recent heavy rains. Eight houses were buried and twenty-six persons were killed.

CAUT, March 12.—Subsequent reports of the pioneer regiments have arrived here to afford aid in extricating the sufferers from the debris. Thus far three persons have been rescued alive. Five bodies have also been recovered. Further landslides are feared in the vicinity. Twenty-one persons are still unaccounted for.

England.

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST CHARLES BRENT.

LONDON, March 11.—In the Bow Street Police Court, yesterday, the solicitor of the London Bankers' Association appeared in behalf of the Falls City Tobacco Bank, at Louisville, Ky., to prosecute Charles Brent, alias Clarence Rivers, charged with forging $15,000 worth of bills on the Falls City Tobacco Bank, at Louisville, Ky. Detective Shore, of Scotland Yard, who brought him from Queenstown, deposed that the prisoner had confessed and admitted his guilt in conversation. He also deposed that £56 and a draft for 29,000 francs were found upon him.

THE BELGIAN BANK EMBEZZLEMENT.

The man suspected of being connected with the embezzlement of 6,000,000 francs of the Banque de Belgique's funds, who was arrested at Queenstown yesterday, as he was about leaving for New York on the steamer City of Paris, is undoubtedly M. Kindt, Secretary General of the bank named insitution. The *Pall Mall Gazette's* Brussels correspondent writes that the bank's shares have depreciated 12,000,000 francs since the frauds committed with the Banque de Belgique have been known. This bank should not be confounded with the Banque Nationale, which does the Government's business, occupying a position there analogous to the Bank of England here.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON FRAUDS.

LIVERPOOL, March 11.—The Cotton Brokers' Association yesterday heard the result of the investigation concerning the dealings of its members with the absconded brokers. Fifty members were severely censured for dealing with Messrs. Munn & Hurst, composing the firm of Wm. Peers & Son, without sufficient inquiry.

UNIVERSAL PROCLAMATION OF VICTORIA'S TITLE.

LONDON, March 11.—The new title will be imperially proclaimed simultaneously throughout the empire from the towers of Windsor, the Government House in Calcutta, at Valetta in Malta, on the banks of the St. Lawrence, and in British Columbia, from Dublin Castle and Edinburgh Castle, and at the antipodes in Melbourne, Sydney, Hobart Town, Auckland, in Hong Kong, at Cape Town in Africa, in Fiji and from every remote where peoples listen to the the roll of British drums.

DESTRUCTIVE STORM IN ENGLAND AND ON THE CONTINENT.

LONDON, March 13.—The storm of Sunday did much damage at Portsmouth, Weymouth, Dover and other seaports. Six hundred vessels took refuge in the Downs. The mail boat from Calais and Ostend was compelled to put back. The French steamer Lafayette, from Havre for New York, remained at Plymouth some hours. The storm extended to the Continent. Telegraph wires in the North of France are prostrated for days in many parts between Paris and London interrupted.

ELOPEMENT OF THE MARQUIS OF BLANDFORD WITH THE WIFE OF LORD AYLESFORD.

LONDON, March 13.—Lord Aylesford's wife has eloped with the Marquis of Blandford, eldest son of the Duke of Marlborough. The Marquis of Blandford is notorious for his social escapades, and the Marlborough gems have been, it is said, sold to pay his debts. He is a brother of Lord Randolph Churchill. Lord Aylesford, the unfortunate husband, was called home from India on urgent affairs some timeago. The elopement is the absorbing topic in the clubs.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 9, 1876.

Break Down of the Impeachment.

The dramatic entree which the Democratic committee made in announcing to the country the sad discovery of a high Cabinet officer accepting bribes, has had a summary termination and a precipitate exit. The Democratic leaders, in the light of recent information from other quarters, do not seem so bent upon impeachment. They are very reticent, however, as to the cause of this sudden suspension of zeal. It is intimated that advices received from various quarters threaten disclosures which affect the standing of some of the magnates of the Democratic party, especially Pendleton and Hendricks, in addition to what has been stated. If the articles of impeachment are not shortly introduced, it is proposed by the leading Republicans to introduce a resolution to appoint a committee to ascertain the circumstances attending the release of Marsh and to inquire into all the facts connected with the Belknap investigation and the non-presentation of the articles of impeachment. Should this be carried out, it will create a lively time in the House and, if successful, will give a peculiar phase of the investigations of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department. The stop in the proceedings of that committee will necessitate action in some way.

Navy Department Investigation.

The friends of S. P. Brown say that Wolf, the witness against the Navy Department, was discharged by Brown on account of drunkenness and theft, and that he had stolen considerable sums before he was discovered. There is evidence, it is stated, to show that Wolf was in the service of the Democrats to aid them in working a case against the Secretary of the Navy.

Orville Grant Protests his Innocence of Corruption.

Orville Grant, in conversation to-night, said that he had not been engaged in any improper transactions; that frequent applications had been made to him to secure post traderships and other privileges, and large sums had been offered to him, which he had invariably declined; he had desire to make money and knew that did not belong to him; not only had he pursued this course on account of his own self-respect, but on account of respect for his brother, the President. He said that he had been very much maligned in the public press; that he was perfectly willing that any act of his should be investigated, and that he would like to have it done at once, so that he and his family could have some peace. He said that he had to-day answered, freely and without reserve, all the searching questions put to him by the two committees before which he appeared. He said that constant efforts were being made to blackmail him, persons writing him letters and threatening this and that if he would maintain silence, and alluding to matters of which he knew nothing. While your correspondent was present, a letter was handed to Mr. Grant, which he read aloud. It was from one of the kind he had just described; it was written by a female, who demanded an appointment for her husband within seventy hours, and closed quietly with the letter into the fire, which he said was a fit place for such productions.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 10, 1876.

The Mexican Revolution.

The revolutionary demonstrations in the Northern States of Mexico and the complications which might grow out of them, were considered in the Cabinet to-day, in order to prevent any participation in these disorders from American soil. The Acting Secretary of War will at once instruct the Commanding General of the Department of Texas to prevent any revolutionary movements from our side, and also all military expeditions that may be set on foot by filibusters and all violations of neutrality; also to arrest, disarm and interrupt any troops who may cross from Mexico.

THE DANUBE FLOODS—GREAT LOSS OF PROPERTY IN PESTH AND VICINITY.

The statement being prepared in the Treasury Department, showing the balances due since 1830 from officers of customs, represents the customs service as second to none, saying: "Taking into account the vast sums of money collected from this source, the losses from defalcation have been comparatively small. The largest losses, as indicated by the preliminary information from this source, were during the decade of 1850-60. During the last six years they have been practically nominal.

Clymer's Committee Called on to Resign.

After the adjournment of the House this afternoon, a number of Democrats expressed the opinion that Mr. Clymer and his committee had lost all their opportunities by the charges which had been made against them and by the imbecility which had been shown in managing the investigation; that they had better resign and allow a new committee to be appointed. The convenience would result from this, as the testimony is all recorded.

The Wilson Sewing Machine.

The refusal of the Committee on Patents to extend the Wilson sewing machine patent, will render this useful invention common property. By putting an end to a powerful combination, the price will be one-half that which the machines are now bringing.

Pittsburgh Custom House—Resolution of Inquiry by Mr. Hopkins.

Representative Hopkins has prepared, and introduced to the House, a resolution that the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to furnish the House of Representatives with the testimony taken and the report of an investigation recently made under his direction, relative to alleged illegal charges and irregularities in the management of the Custom House at Pittsburgh, and that the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to inform the House what action has been taken in reference to a change of officers at said Custom House and the reasons why no change was made. An abstract of the report of the expert Jeffreys on Magill's case, the substance of the reports of the Special Agents Tingle and Fox, who overhauled the Surveyor's office for the space of two hours, the action of Secretary Bristow in requesting the resignation of Mr. Steel and the overruling interposition of the President, have already been published in full in these patches. It is ascertained that the case has no features which have not already been given.

Important to United States District Judges.

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was recommitted a bill to provide for the expenses of district judges when holding court out of their own districts, report the same back to the House with a unanimous recommendation that it pass with the following amendment: In line 8, insert the word "six" instead of "ten," so that it shall read "six dollars per day," instead of "ten dollars per day." At present there is no law authorizing the payment of expenses of judges who may be called upon to hold courts in districts outside of their own.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 10, 1876.

PROFESSOR SILLIMAN AND THE EMMA.

Professor Silliman appeared before the Committee on Foreign Affairs to-day and testified concerning his report on the Emma mine. He said his connection with the mine was merely professional, that he was employed to make the examination and was left to fix his own compensation. His terms were $5,000 in advance; after the completion of the work, not less than $10,000, nor more than $20,000. He received $5,000, and the balance, with charges of other scientific services, was compensated. His entire receipts amounted to $25,000.

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The letters and telegrams relating to General Babcock's request to the Secretary to hold a court of inquiry, the orders directing it to be convened, the detail for the court, its adjournment for sixty days and finally its dissolution, in consequence of the indictment of Babcock by the St. Lauis Grand Jury, are all merely formal and have been in substance already published, except the following, on the 15th of December:

(Major Asa Baird Gardner, Judge Advocate, from Chicago to the Adjutant General of the Army.)

SIR—I have the honor to report that the Court of Inquiry convened here by Special Order 246, adjourned to-day, to meet at the call of the President of the court. I deem it my duty to invite the attention of the proper authority to the following state of facts in reference to the case for the Government, which I was called upon to present:

Immediately on receiving telegraphic notice of detail, I hastened here, in advance of the assembling of the court, so as to be prepared to proceed without delay. Had the court been, on its assembling, duly sworn, I should nevertheless have been unable to proceed, in consequence of the failure of Hon. D. P. Dyer, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, to obey the positive instructions of the Honorable Attorney General of the United States. These telegraphic instructions were sent to him on December 6, instant, and specially directed that I should be furnished with "any documentary evidence of any witnesses whose testimony you [he] judged important to make the investigation thorough." The Judge Advocate gives in detail the object for which the Court of Inquiry was convened, and proceeds:

On the 8th inst., as Mr. Dyer had not furnished me with any information whatever, I telegraphed to him. On the 9th he replied with a telegram, offering me a copy of the stenographic notes in the trials of John McDonald and Wm. O. Avery. He has since sent me an abstract of the Avery trial, containing Henderson's remarks relative to Col. Babcock. As a lawyer, Mr. Dyer must have known perfectly well that his reply of the 9th was no answer to my telegram, neither did it comply with the Attorney General's directions. What I required was a list of witnesses and a description of the documentary evidence on which Mr. Henderson had based his remarks, so that the Court of Inquiry, when organized, could examine for itself into the matter. Up to this afternoon nothing of the kind has been received from Mr. Dyer. On the evening of December 9th, G. C. Gordon, of the *Inter-Ocean* newspaper, reported to me substantially that his paper had just received reliable telegraphic information that Dyer had publicly stated that he should furnish no lists of witnesses or documentary evidence. So far as the Avery and McDonald cases were concerned, Mr. Henderson's remarks as to Colonel Babcock might have been based on what he had heard or seen wholly outside the court proceedings, and without any link to connect the word "six" instead of "ten," so that it shall read "six dollars per day," instead of "ten dollars per day." At present there is no law authorizing the payment of expenses of judges who may be called upon to hold courts in districts outside of their own.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 10, 1876.

The Mexican Revolution.

The revolutionary demonstrations in the Northern States of Mexico and the complications which might grow out of them, were considered in the Cabinet to-day, in order to prevent any participation in these disorders from American soil. The Acting Secretary of War will at once instruct the Commanding General of the Department of Texas to prevent any revolutionary movements from our side, and also all military expeditions that may be set on foot by filibusters and all violations of neutrality; also to arrest, disarm and interrupt any troops who may cross from Mexico.

THE DANUBE FLOODS—GREAT LOSS OF PROPERTY IN PESTH AND VICINITY.

The statement being prepared in the Treasury Department, showing the balances due since 1830 from officers of customs, represents the customs service as second to none, saying: "Taking into account the vast sums of money collected from this source, the losses from defalcation have been comparatively small. The largest losses, as indicated by the preliminary information from this source, were during the decade of 1850-60. During the last six years they have been practically nominal.

Clymer's Committee Called on to Resign.

After the adjournment of the House this afternoon, a number of Democrats expressed the opinion that Mr. Clymer and his committee had lost all their opportunities by the charges which had been made against them and by the imbecility which had been shown in managing the investigation; that they had better resign and allow a new committee to be appointed. The convenience would result from this, as the testimony is all recorded.

The Wilson Sewing Machine.

The refusal of the Committee on Patents to extend the Wilson sewing machine patent, will render this useful invention common property. By putting an end to a powerful combination, the price will be one-half that which the machines are now bringing.

Pittsburgh Custom House—Resolution of Inquiry by Mr. Hopkins.

Representative Hopkins has prepared, and introduced to the House, a resolution that the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to furnish the House of Representatives with the testimony taken and the report of an investigation recently made under his direction, relative to alleged illegal charges and irregularities in the management of the Custom House at Pittsburgh, and that the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to inform the House what action has been taken in reference to a change of officers at said Custom House and the reasons why no change was made. An abstract of the report of the expert Jeffreys on Magill's case, the substance of the reports of the Special Agents Tingle and Fox, who overhauled the Surveyor's office for the space of two hours, the action of Secretary Bristow in requesting the resignation of Mr. Steel and the overruling interposition of the President, have already been published in full in these patches. It is ascertained that the case has no features which have not already been given.

Important to United States District Judges.

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was recommitted a bill to provide for the expenses of district judges when holding court out of their own districts, report the same back to the House with a unanimous recommendation that it pass with the following amendment: In line 8, insert the word "six" instead of "ten," so that it shall read "six dollars per day," instead of "ten dollars per day." At present there is no law authorizing the payment of expenses of judges who may be called upon to hold courts in districts outside of their own.

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[Signed] EDWARDS PIERREPONT, Attorney General.

On December 14, Gardner wrote to Dyer, acknowledging the receipt of the stenographic copies above referred to, and added: "I beg leave to remind you that the last of my telegrams to you requested, and which I have ordered the to gard to, have not been received, nor have your communications contained any reference thereto. I must trouble you for some position by which to address you."

THE CHARGES AGAINST CLYMER.

Charles Nordhoff, Chief of the *Herald* Bureau, appeared before the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department to-day, in obedience to a summons. The Ch

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
HARRISBURG, PA., March 14, 1876.
SENATE.

The supplement to the incorporation act of Pittsburgh was referred to the Judiciary General Committee, to report upon its constitutionality, which act is equivalent to killing the bill.

Bills Passed Finally—To repeal the act authorizing the collection of State and county taxes in Eldred township, Schuylkill county.

To authorize the courts to decree private sales of real estate in certain cases.

To correct errors in the transcribing of the act of Assembly entitled "An act to punish the sale and traffic in mineral water bottles and other bottles, and for the protection of bottlers and venders of mineral water," &c.

To provide for the purchase of bound files of New York newspapers for the State Library.

To amend an act entitled "An act to reorganize the Congressional districts of Pennsylvania," and the amendments to attach the new township of Collier, in the county of Allegheny, to the Twenty-second Congressional district.

Speaker Patterson has managed to raise another row. This morning he refused to sign a Senate bill that had passed both Houses, on the ground that the name of the President of the Senate came first, and he insisted that the Speaker's name should have that honorable distinction. The bill was returned to the Senate with this information.

This led to a debate, in which leading Senators, Democrats and Republicans, reprobated the childishness and folly of the Speaker.

Mr. Dill, of Union, offered a resolution setting forth that the bill should be first signed by the presiding officer of the House in which it originated, but most of the Senators desired a more decisive measure to cure the Speaker of his insulting pretensions. A mandamus was advocated, and the Speaker is fearfully scored by Democrats and Republicans for presuming to block all legislation on a silly point of etiquette.

The Senate adjourned pending the discussion.

HOUSE.

Messrs. Zern, Thornton and Irwin presented a petition asking for an enlargement of the jurisdiction of aldermen.

House bill No. 104 (prescribing the manner in which Councils of cities may pass ordinances authorizing the grading or paving of streets, and construction of bridges and sewers and cross-walks) came up third reading.

Mr. Hays had read the following dispatch from the Pittsburgh City Clerk:

HON. JOS. HAYS.—Councils have approved and recommended the passage of House bill No. 104, prescribing the manner in which Councils may pass ordinances for street improvements.

Respectfully,
E. S. MORROW, City Clerk.

The bill then passed third reading.

The consideration of House bill No. 66 (bituminous coal mine ventilation bill), was then taken up.

Mr. Talley offered an amendment to make the Secretary of Internal Affairs, in conjunction with the Governor, the appointing power in the bill for mine inspectors, etc.

Mr. Hubn attempted to put in the name of the Attorney General. Not agreed to.

Mr. Hubn further attempted to insert the name of the State Treasurer.

Upon the above amendments a running debate, of a desultory character ensued, which was participated in by Messrs. Hubn, Christy, Long and Morgan, of Lawrence, in favor of it, and against it by Messrs. Talley and Patterson, Speaker.

Mr. Wolfe moved a further amendment that the name of the Speaker of the House be inserted in the bill, instead of the Secretary of Internal Affairs, and spoke upon his amendment in a lengthy speech.

Mr. Plummer replied in a forcible speech, when a motion was made by Speaker Patterson (Mr. Faunce in the chair) that the House go into Committee of the Whole to insert the amendment regarding the Secretary of Internal Affairs. The Republicans refused to vote, but were forced to do so by a call of the House. The amendment was inserted and the bill passed third reading. The vote was subsequently reconsidered and the bill came up again in the afternoon.

The Ventilation bill occupied the entire morning and afternoon. A large number of amendments were adopted, as offered, mainly by Allegheny members. The salary of inspectors was reduced to $2,000, on motion of Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence. No person, old drift mines are exempted from the provisions of the bill, unless the inspectors think it necessary, and also mines employing less than ten men. On motion of Mr. Christy, the provision for a clerk was stricken out, and also other important changes made. Three mining engineers, who shall be residents of the State, constitute the Board of Examiners, instead of three miners and two engineers, and five out of the six must recommend for appointment. The mining engineers must be graduates or possess experience in mining." After debating and amending through the greater part of the afternoon and evening for two days, the bill goes to the printer for final passage through the House.

Bills Passed Finally—To repeal a supplement to acts "incorporating the city of Pittsburgh, and enlarging its boundaries" as to the boroughs of Mount Washington and Union.

To prevent fraud and fraudulent practices upon or by hotel keepers and boarding house keepers.

Repealing an act relating to the fees of the District Attorney of Northampton county.

On motion of Mr. Zern the use of the hall of the House was granted to Dr. James H. McLellan next Tuesday night for a lecture on the Treatment of Insane.

Mr. Riley submitted a resolution providing for a joint legislative rule giving the Speaker of the House precedence in signing engrossed bills. The immediate cause of the resolution was the question which has been raised between the two Houses as to which of the Speakers should first append his signature to bills that have passed both Houses. Although custom has uniformly conceded this precedence to the Speaker of the House, there is, it seems, no fixed rule on the subject, and Mr. Riley proposed to establish by his resolution.

The House refused to suspend the rules to consider the resolution—yeas 76, nays 70, less than two-thirds having voted in the affirmative.

Colonel John W. Forney addressed the members of the Legislature in the hall of the House of Representatives this evening, on "Our Centennial Affairs, or the Exposition Judged from our Engineering Standpoint." Speeches were also made by Colonel A. K. McClure, Hon. Morton McMichael and Colonel Sandford, the Englishman who represented the Centennial. Lieutenant Governor Latta presided, while Governor Hartranft and many other distinguished persons were present.

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Act providing for the establishment of industrial schools in the Commonwealth. Passed.

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Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Huhn announced the death of Edwin A. Good, member of the House from Philadelphia, and a committee of seven was appointed to make the usual arrangements.

Bills on Second Reading—Act relating to the payment of costs in misdemeanors, supplemental to the act of Assembly approved May 21, 1874, entitled "An act relating to the payment of costs in cases of delay." Defeated.

The act requiring the teaching of drawing in all the common schools of the State, was discussed by Messrs. Zorn, Patterson and Graham in favor, and Jackson and Plummer against. The bill was amended so as to confine its provisions to elementary drawing in graded schools. The House took a recess without action on the bill.

The House met in afternoon session at three o'clock, and resumed consideration, on second reading, of the act to require the teaching of drawing in all the common schools of the State. The bill was negatived.

The following bills passed second reading:

Act empowering directors of loan or building associations to invest the funds of said associations when not called on by the stockholders.

Act to prohibit banks and banking institutions from paying interest on deposits.

Supplementary act relating to an appeal from the decision of township auditors.

Act to repeal the act relating to the collection of debts and township debts in the several counties of the Commonwealth.

Act to provide for the publication of the eleventh volume of the Transaction of the State Agricultural Society and Pennsylvania Dairyman's Association.

Mr. Graham offered an amendment, cutting down the number to be printed one-half. Not agreed to, and the bill passed.

Bill No. Six, reclassifying cities, passed the House unanimously as it came from the Senate, and now goes to the Governor for his signature.

Adjourned.

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The House and Senate, to-day, were both the scene of an excitement, most unusual, over a stupid question of pre-eminence raised by that distinguished professor of parliamentary etiquette, the Speaker of the House. A bill which originated in the Senate, and had passed both Houses, was presented to the President of the Senate to be signed by him, in open session, as the Constitution requires, and was signed accordingly. The practice has been to present these bills for signature, first, in the House in which they were originated, and immediately afterwards to the presiding officer of the other House for his signature. When this particular bill was presented by the Message Clerk of the Senate to the Speaker of the House, that officer refused to sign it because it had not been presented to him first. He considers himself as ranking above the President of the Senate, and informed the House that it would be a lowering of his dignity to sign after it had been signed by the presiding officer of the other branch.

It frequently happens that the man who prates most about his honesty has none to spare, and those who insist the loudest about their dignity have the least of it. What possible dignity is there about signing a bill? And what difference could there be about the when or the where of affixing a signature to a public document? It was the Speaker's plain duty, made so by the imperative provisions of the Constitution, to sign all bills, when passed by both Houses, and no man of sound judgment would have permitted the question to be raised whether he should be first or second in the order of performing a duty from which he has no escape.

The whole scene reminded one of the reported struggles in the puny court of the Duke of Pumpernickel as to which paltry Baron should be first in the court process stone-toadying, or precedence on any other questions of etiquette. Perhaps a more homely illustration, and one more easily comprehended, may be found in the case of two hotel keepers disputing for precedence in sliding on the cellar door.

The Speaker justifies himself on the ground that in Parliament and Congress the rule prevails that the House first signed, the reason given for which is that in both Congress and Parliament the House is the body which is nearest to the people. But the very reason is inapplicable in Pennsylvania, because the Senate is as near to the people as the House. Both are elected by popular vote, and in many instances by the same people, precisely the same constituency. In Parliament, the House of Lords is the representative of the privileged classes, not of the people, and in Congress the Senate represents the States, in mass, and not popular constituencies; while in Pennsylvania the Senate represents the people, directly, and there is no such distinction between the two Houses as is to be found in Congress and Parliament. The parliamentary rule, therefore, springs from a reason which does not exist in the United States, and is, for that reason, inapplicable.

The practice, here, for years has been to give precedence, in signatures to bills, to the House of Representatives, as the larger body in which a bill originates; and as the names of the presiding officers are not now affixed to the printed edition of the laws passed by the Legislature, and bills in the several counties of the Commonwealth.

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When the matter was brought before the Senate to-day, there was a universal feeling of indignation, not confined to either side of the Chamber, that a presiding officer of a legislative body could be capable of such conduct. All Senators, without party lines up on it, including several on the Democratic side, spoke of it in terms of the severest condemnation. The whole affair was regarded as so contemptible and so infinitely small that it would be degrading and disgraceful to take notice of it, if it were not for the fact that a public officer could not be permitted to act in such a manner without injury to the dignity of the whole body. A resolution was offered declaring that the action of the Speaker was unprecedented and unparliamentary, and providing for the appointment of a committee to wait upon the Speaker and inform him that it would be a waste of time to send bills for his signature, and requesting him to make known to the House when he would be ready to receive bills for signature. Pending the discussion of this resolution, the Speaker, who had been sent for, appeared in the Senate, and, in a speech of considerable length, attempted to justify his action. He was severely criticised by Senators on both sides of the Chamber, and the resolution was finally withdrawn, it being understood that the Speaker would sign the bill in question, and that no further trouble would be made.

In the House, the matter was brought up by a resolution offered by Mr. Riley, providing for a joint legislative rule giving the Speaker of the House precedence in signing engrossed bills. The immediate cause of the resolution was the question which has been raised between the two Houses as to which of the Speakers should first append his signature to bills that have passed both Houses. Although custom has uniformly conceded this precedence to the Speaker of the House, there is, it seems, no fixed rule on the subject, and Mr. Riley proposed to establish by his resolution.

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Bills on Second Reading—Act relating to

OHIO.

Treasurer of Ottawa County Arrested for Embezzlement.

TOLEDO, March 14.—Under a strong suspicion that John H. Magee, Treasurer of Ottawa county, had been guilty of extensive speculating with county funds, J. B. Wright, of Port Clinton, was appointed examiner by the State Auditor, and ordered to examine into the condition of the Treasury. On the 10th inst., Wright attempted to take possession of the Treasury under a warrant, but was resisted and forcibly ejected. The examiner then made a preliminary examination and was subsequently allowed to see the books, when it was ascertained that a defalcation of over $2,000 existed. He applied to Justice Hurlbut for a warrant for the arrest of Magee, which was refused, and then he was arraigned before a justice of the peace at Genoa on a warrant for issuing the examiner and for embezzlement. An examination took place yesterday, and Magee was bound over to the Common Pleas Court in $5,000 on each charge. It is asserted that the investigation will probably show a very rotten state of affairs in the Ottawa county treasury.

THE MISSOURI TORNADO.

Summary of the Damage Done.

QUINCY, ILL., March 13.—The *Whig's* report shows the following summary of the results of the late storm in Missouri:

Seven persons killed. Seventeen injured, three or four of them dangerously. Sore thirty houses blown down, and immense damage done to orchards and timber. It is estimated that in Monroe and Ralls counties one thousand miles of fencing is prostrated. Five miles north of Monroe, at the time of the hurricane, a terrific storm passed over, leaving the ground covered with eight to ten inches of hail.

THE TORNADO AT HAZEL GREEN.

Burial of the Dead.

DUBUQUE, March 12.—The damage to property in the Hazel Green disaster was forty to fifty thousand dollars. The tornado leveled everything in the town, from southwest to northwest, for a space of about eighty rods in width. Houses were taken up by the gale and borne, in some cases, a hundred feet from their foundations, and most extraordinary feats were performed by the wind. At ten o'clock to-day the funerals of the nine persons who were killed took place, and the bodies were interred in the cemetery at Hazel Green.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 13, 1876.

Serious Charges Against Richard H. Dana, Jr.—His Confirmation Endangered.

A cloud lowers over the prospects of Mr. Dana, recently nominated to the Court of St. James. In 1869 the celebrated kid glove campaign gave Mr. Dana an amusing notoriety in the political arena, the regular candidate being the irrepressible Essex statesman. Benjamin, however, never forgot this attempted division, puerile as it was, and has established his headquarters in his granite castle on Capitol Hill, with his blade sharpened for war. The proofs of Mr. Dana's divergence from a direct line have been laid before the Committee on Foreign Affairs and will be considered in connection with his case to-morrow. The charges against Dana are literary piracy and perjury. Upon the death of Henry Wheaton, the author of "Elements of International Law," Mr. Lawrence compiled an annotated edition, the proceeds of which he turned over to Mrs. Wheaton, who was left in great destitution. Mr. Lawrence did not take out a certificate of copyright in his own name, but in that of Mrs. Wheaton, from whom he obtained an agreement that the notes should not be used in any subsequent edition of her husband's works, without his written consent. Mr. Lawrence was permitted to use them as he saw fit. In 1866 a bill was filed by Mr. Lawrence against Mr. Dana, and in the trial it was shown unequivocally that Mr. Dana had been guilty of the grossest plagiarism. A comparison of the notes of Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Dana was made by eminent scholars, and by them it was shown that Mr. Dana's book, with annotations, was almost a reprint of Lawrence's Wheaton. Judge Clifford, in his decision, sustained the claims of Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Dana then stated that he undertook the work from patriotic motives in order to replace the disloyal production of Mr. Lawrence; that is, he wished to complete a work on international law to conform to Mr. Seward's ideas on that subject. Lawrence's Wheaton is universally accepted as the authority on that important subject. The conduct of Mr. Dana has therefore become of almost world-wide notoriety, and his action has not created a very favorable impression upon the minds of the jurists of Europe. The Committee on Foreign Affairs, while not disposed to deal at trifles, deems this a subject worthy of their consideration, and will give it a full ventilation before recommending his confirmation. It is positive that he will be reported upon adversely.

State Rights Resolutions in the House.

The resolution of Mr. Baker, of Indiana, against the doctrine of State rights and condemning secession, caused a lively squirming and was voted down by the Democrats, Messrs. Cox and Blackburn favoring State rights and against secession, with the aid of a sufficient number of Republicans, was carried.

Pennsylvania Needed to Bristow.

A statement was made at the Department that a delegation from Pennsylvania called on Secretary Bristow and assured him of the support of the State in the convention. No one could state who or what the delegation represented, or whence their authority. The Secretary, from indications, was not profoundly impressed with this extraordinary accession of strength.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14, 1876.

Case of Richard H. Dana, Jr.

General Butler was before the Committee on Foreign Affairs to-day and made his statement in reference to the literary peculations of Mr. Dana. General Butler gave a review of the circumstances connected with the publication of Lawrence's annotated edition of Wheaton's International Law, and of Mr. Dana's pirated edition, and very roughly handled Mr. Dana's literature. He then quoted from the proceedings in the United States Circuit Court of Massachusetts, "Wm. B. Lawrence, complainant, versus Richard H. Dana, Jr., et al., respondents; in equity; May term, 1869." The decision fully sustained Mr. Lawrence in his monopoly of his work. The President was subsequently informed of the facts, which he was very much surprised to learn, and stated that he would decide what action he would take in the case. He intimated that the nomination will have to be withdrawn, or it will be reported adversely. Mr. Dana telegraphed to-night to Senator Sumner to have the Senate action be suspended until he can be heard.

Representative Ketcham.

for the first time in a week, showed signs of returning reason to-day. It is hoped that the crisis of the disease is passed.

Too Much Reduction.

The House Committee on Appropriations to-day considered a number of letters from the Executive Departments, complaining that if the reductions contemplated in the Legislative, Executive and Judicial bill be imposed it will be impossible to transact the current business.

The President's Salary.

On the vote on the bill to restore the President's salary to its original figure, $25,000, the Presidential candidates, Messrs. Morton, Conkling and Thurman, voted for it, and Mr. Bayard against it. Mr. Bayard said in conversation that when the question of salary was left by the Convention to Washington, he recommended the amount on the basis of the expenses incident to the office, which now are almost quadruple.

A Shaking Among Special Treasury Agents.

There is considerable excitement among the fifty-three special Treasury agents over the vote in the House to-day, passing the bill for in the Legislative bill, but the provision of law authorizing their appointment is also repealed. The bill also peremptorily directs the Secretary to reduce ten per cent. the salaries of those employed at a rate whose salaries are over $1,200, and to take measures looking to a further reduction of the customs force.

The Mission to England.

In response to a dispatch from the friends of Mr. Dana, the President will afford that gentleman time to make a statement in his defense before the Committee on Foreign Relations, which the latter have set for next Tuesday. It is safe to say that a vacancy will exist in the mission to the Court of St. James within ten days, the name of Mr. Dana having been withdrawn or rejected.

Bristow's Reception of Silver Payment.

Bristow to-day urged the House Committee on Appropriations to take prompt steps authorizing the issue of silver, stating that there was danger of a fractional currency famine, there being less than a million on hand. The committee authorized the Chairman to report a bill to-morrow to give the required authority.

Judge McCandless' Bill.

Judge Edmunds stated that he would in a day or two report the bill retiring Judge McCandless.

Secretary Fish to be Investigated.

It is intimated to-night that the House Committee on Foreign Affairs will shortly disclose an array of facts reflecting upon the Secretary of State. The testimony shows that Sidney Webster, the son-in-law of Mr. Fish and the counsel for the Spanish Government, used improper means in influencing the action of the Government in the Virginius controversy, and that the humiliation of the United States in the negotiations with Spain has been compromised. Mr. Webster has been summoned before the committee.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 13, 1876.

THE GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF SILVER.

The report that an arrangement has been made by which the Government is to purchase the entire bullion product of the Consolidated Virginia and California mines for a year, for use in the resumption of specie payments, is pronounced incorrect by the Treasury Department, although it is admitted that a proposition of this kind has been received and is now under consideration.

PROPOSED TAX ON GOLD AND SILVER SALES.

Representative Fort to-day introduced a bill, which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, providing that on and after the first day of July next, there shall be levied and paid a tax on all sales or contracts for sales, whether verbal or written, of gold and silver bullion and coin, at the rate of two-twentieths of one per cent. on the amount of sales or contracts for sales thereof, and on the consummation of sales, or the rendering of fraudulent returns, is to be punished by a penalty of two hundred dollars, besides the payment of the tax due, to be assessed by the collector on the best information he can obtain.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14, 1876.

GEORGE H. PENDLETON BEFORE THE WAR DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE—GENERAL BOYNTON TELLS WHERE HE LEARNED THE FACTS IN THE CASE.

George H. Pendleton was before the War Department Committee to-day, and gave a circumstantial account of his connection with the Kentucky Central Railroad and with the collection of its claim for transportation services. He testified that he was paid by the company fifty per cent. of the amount recovered through his agency, and also received about $15,000 additional to be paid by him to A. H. Ransom, who had been a clerk in the company's service, and who assisted in the preparation of the claim. He believes the morning this line never paid one dollar to any person connected with the Government, or to any member of Belknap's family, or to any one else, except to Ransom. During the examination Mr. Pendleton said that neither Mrs. Marsh nor Mrs. Bowers traveled with him and his family in Europe, nor did he meet Mr. Clymer while traveling in Europe, and the publication that he had private conversation with any member of the committee before he testified, was infamously false.

His information about the Kentucky Central Railroad claim was that it had been presented to Secretary Stanton, but not to any other Secretary. He did not understand that Secretary Stanton's action concerning the claim was a rejection of it.

Question—Did you interest yourself with Secretary Belknap to have the claim referred to General Dunn?

Answer—I do not know how it came to be so referred.

Question—On what basis was the claim originally rejected?

Answer—I only tell from the papers. I have an impression that it was on the original report from General Meigs. My impression is that I went to see General Meigs when I was there, and had a conversation with him on the subject. Having replied to his argument, General Meigs told me the claim ought not to be paid, having once been before the War Department and not allowed; he did not think it ought to be reopened. Witness was uncertain as to whether the company allowed him $80,000 or $90,000.

Mr. Bass remarked to Mr. Pendleton that he understood him to be the administrator of the Bowler estate, representing three-fifths of the railroad property, and yet, as such administrator, he made a bargain for himself, as President of the company, with the remaining stockholders by which he was benefited to the extent of more than one-half of the claim, receiving $80,000 for his services.

Mr. Pendleton said that if the company allowed him $80,000, the company received $68,000 of the claim; and if the company allowed him $90,000, the company received $68,000.

C. P. Sandford, a clerk of the Treasury Department, presented the warrants by which the claim was paid. The first is payable to Mr. Pendleton, for $30,000, dated June 12, 1871, indorsed "George H. Pendleton, President. Pay to First National Park Bank of New York." The second is for $50,000, same date.

The third amount is for $68,552, same date, indorsed by Pendleton to be paid to the Northern Bank of Kentucky. Mr. Wantell testified that all the papers were filed in the Third Auditor's office. The warrants or requisitions have been in his hands for several years. The warrants are countersigned by the Register, Third Auditor and Second Comptroller, and were issued on the requisition of the Secretary of War, being countersigned by the Secretary of War. All the business was transacted on the same date, the 12th of June, 1871. The warrants are marked "special."

A. P. Ransom, Auditor of the Kentucky Central Railroad, testified, but what he said was not of general interest.

Senator Stevenson, having been requested to appear before the committee, testified that he was one of the stockholders of the Kentucky Central Railroad, had been a director since 1863 and also general counsellor of the company. Pendleton was employed to take charge of the collection of the claim of the company, for which he was to receive fifty per cent. The Senator was present when the agreement was made, and when the account was settled, but he had no knowledge of the mode and manner of the settlement; as one of the managers of the road, believed the settlement was just and fair, and was glad to get the money. The Bowler estate owned four-fifths of the entire stock. Mrs. Bowler and children are interested, and one of her infant children, for whom she is guardian. Mrs. Kief, who is the next largest stockholder, was delighted at the settlement. Every body appeared to be more than pleased, as they considered it just so much money made. Mr. Bowler, in his life time, said he would sell his interest for five cents on the dollar. The Senator thought it was as just a claim as was ever presented. Bridges had been burnt and trains damaged, the rebels seizing the road and working it for thirty days. The Senator had regarded it a good claim, but hard to get. He heard that Stanton and Meigs had decided adversely to the claim. He was gratified and a little surprised when it went through, it having been hanging so long.

General Boynton was then presented and sworn. He wished it to be understood that he appeared here voluntarily, and not by a subpœna.

The witness replied that he could only tell from the papers. I have an impression that it was on the original report from General Meigs. My impression is that I went to see General Meigs when I was there, and had a conversation with him on the subject. Having replied to his argument, General Meigs told me the claim ought not to be paid, having once been before the War Department and not allowed; he did not think it ought to be reopened. Witness was uncertain as to whether the company allowed him $80,000 or $90,000.

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The witness replied that he did not obtain the statement from the man who would verify it.

Mr. Blackburn said they were entitled to a categorical answer.

After a short colloquy, witness was permitted to say that he obtained the first intimation from Hon. Jeremiah M. Wilson, who referred him to Hon. Mr. Shellabarger, also an ex-member of Congress and Mr. Wilson's law partner, and Mr. Shellabarger referred witness to Colonel B. F. Grafton. The last named gave him the information relative to the filing of the papers, on condition that he would not use his name, and Colonel Grafton gave as his authority General Kiddoo, of the United States Army, who had come in with whom the Chairman conversed on the subject of this inquiry. Witness said he met Mr. Wilson in the Treasury Department a week ago Friday, and Mr. Wilson remarked that it had been heard of a matter that ought to be looked up, and referred him to Mr. Shellabarger. Mr. Shellabarger said of the witness that while serving in the Court of Claims, Colonel Grafton said to him: "There is a gentleman who knows all about a sum of $20,000 or $25,000 being paid to Mr. Belknap's wards Mrs. Belknap, out of the Kentucky Central Railroad case." The witness asked Mr. Shellabarger whether he would authorize him to call on Colonel Grafton and talk about it. Mr. Shellabarger responded "Certainly." The witness accordingly called on Col. Grafton next morning. Col. Grafton inquired if he knew General Kiddoo, who soon went out. Col. Grafton said: "The gentleman who just went out knows all about it." The amount of the statement was $20,000, and that he was present at a party with Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, George H. Pendleton, Mrs. Bowers (afterwards Mrs. Belknap) and Mr. Clymer, who made some game of the witness's knowledge here. Witness obtained the impression that they all traveled together at the same time.

Mr. Clymer, interrupting, remarked that he was not in Europe at the time.

The witness replied that he regretted if he had made any mistake in the proper division of this party of distinguished travelers; that he was responsible for whatever error there might be in the statement. Witness learned from Col. Grafton that when Mr. and Mrs. Marsh reached Washington the night before Marsh testified, there was a reception given by Mr. Clymer at Hotel, at which Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Balknap and several other persons were present, all of them being acquaintances and most of them knowing each other. Mr. Clymer's committee were instructed to inquire into; that at that meeting Mrs. Marsh, in talking of various transactions of which she had knowledge, alluded to statements in circulation in regard to the so-called Pendleton railroad claims, relating to the Kentucky Central Railroad; that Mr. Belknap said: "Now, Mrs. Marsh, no exaggerations"—while it had been believed among some of her friends that she received $9,000 from that claim, she had in fact obtained only about half that amount; that friends of Mrs. Marsh asserted that if she was ever brought before the committee she would undoubtedly testify to the main facts given above; and Colonel Grafton further informed the witness that General Kiddoo had gone to Mr. Clymer and said: "Here is a case against Pendleton of a character similar to that of Marsh," and he was reminded that as he had determined to bring Belknap down, he could not justly decline to bring Pendleton down; and that the manner asserted that he had not sufficient data to reach Pendleton; and further, that Clymer was pressed with the rejoinder that Mrs. Marsh could tell and that the books and records of the Department would throw some light on the case; now the only way was to summon Mrs. Marsh, and she would tell all about the interview. Witness understood that a subpœna was obtained for Mrs. Marsh, but before it could be served she went to Canada. Witness took the responsibility of publishing the story, in consequence of its importance; for, if true, it placed the committee in an aw

THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

Meeting of the Republican Executive Committee.

Convention Called to Elect Delegates to the State Convention—The County Conventions Ordered for June 6th—Two County, Two Senatorial and Six Legislative Conventions to be Held—Resolutions Adopted—Demand for Punishment of Corrupt Officials, and for Candidates Above Suspicion.

The important political campaign of 1876 opened auspiciously on Saturday, with the meeting of the Allegheny County Republican Executive Committee at the Court House. There was a very large attendance of members, larger indeed, than at any time has been held for several years, and the utmost interest was manifested in the proceedings.

The meeting was called to order at the hour named in the call, three o'clock, P. M., by Maj. Russell Street, Chairman of the committee, who stated that the business was primarily to decide upon the selection of delegates to the State Convention, which meets on the 29th of this month at Harrisburg.

REPRESENTATION AT THE STATE CONVENTION.

Mr. Byram offered the following:

Resolved, That the Republicans of Allegheny county be requested to meet in their respective election districts on Saturday, the 18th inst., between four and six o'clock, P. M., and choose one delegate from each district (except such districts as are entitled to more than one under the call for the conventions of last year) to a county convention to be held at the Court House on Tuesday, th 21st inst., at ten o'clock, A. M., to elect delegates to the Republican State Convention from the several Senatorial and Representative districts.

The delegates from the Forty-second Senatorial district, composed of the city of Allegheny, the boroughs of Bellevue, West Bellevue and Sewickley, and Reserve, Killbuck and Ohio townships, will elect one senatorial delegate.

Those from the Forty-third district, composed of the First to the Fifteenth wards, and the Twenty-third ward, will elect one senatorial delegate.

Those from the Forty-fourth district, composed of the Sixteenth to the Twenty-second wards of Pittsburgh, and all the townships and boroughs between the rivers and those north of the Allegheny and Ohio, except those in the Forty-second district, will elect one senatorial delegate.

Those from the Forty-fifth district, consisting of all the wards, boroughs and townships on the South Side, will elect one senatorial delegate.

The delegates from the city of Allegheny will elect three representative delegates.

Those from the First to the Fourth and Sixth to Eighth wards of Pittsburgh will elect two representative delegates.

Those from the Fifth, Ninth, Tenth and Twelfth wards of Pittsburgh will elect one representative delegate. Those from the remaining wards of Pittsburgh will elect four representative delegates.

Those from the townships and boroughs north and west of the rivers will elect two representative delegates. Those from the townships and boroughs south of the rivers will elect two representative delegates.

The delegates will meet in one convention and organize, and the secretaries will then call the roll for each Senatorial and Representative district successively.

The resolutions were adopted without discussion or opposition.

John B. MacConnell presented the resignation of Fred. Linz as a member of the committee, and suggested Colonel E. C. Negley in his place. The resignation was accepted and Mr. Negley was substituted.

Mr. John Paul offered a resolution providing for the filling of vacancies as follows: Braddock's borough, M. G. Corry in place of A. Dempster, removed; Twelfth ward, Pittsburgh, Isaac or George T. Oliver, in place of Hiram Frank, removed; First ward, Pittsburgh, R. C. Elliott, vice John Peck, deceased. Resolution was adopted.

COUNTY CONVENTIONS.

Major Wm. H. Negley offered the following:

Resolved, That the primaries for the selection of delegates to the several conventions be held on the 2nd day of April next, and that the conventions be held on the 25th day of April.

Charles S. Fetterman offered the following as a substitute:

Resolved, That the following conventions be called to meet at the Court House, located on Tuesday, June 6, 1876, at eleven o'clock A. M., for the purpose of nominating competent and qualified persons for the offices hereinafter mentioned, he primary meetings to be held on Saturday, June 3, 1876, between the hours of three and seven P. M., for the selection of one delegate from each election district of the townships and boroughs, excepting Jefferson township, which shall be entitled to two delegates to each convention as hereafter directed; the city of Pittsburgh and Allegheny to be represented in said conventions according to provisions of resolution of this committee of 1875.

[The resolution then designates two Congressional Conventions; two for the Twenty-second and one in the Twenty-third district; four Senatorial Conventions; six Legislative Conventions; one County Convention to nominate a Prothonotary and a Director of the Poor, and one County Convention to nominate a Coroner and a Jury Commissioner. The places of meeting to be designated hereafter in the call to be published.]

Mr. Bigelow offered an amendment providing that the primaries be held on the last Saturday in April, and that the conventions be the first Tuesday of May.

Mr. Hemphill said that there was no provision in any of the resolutions for a convention to nominate a County Treasurer.

Mr. Fetterman replied that the County Treasurership was a question for judicial decision, and it would not be wise to call a convention to nominate a candidate for that office until it was seen whether there was to be a vacancy in the Treasurer's office or not.

The question was called on Mr. Bigelow's amendment for the conventions on the first Tuesday of May, and upon a division taken by the Chairman decided it was not carried.

A division was asked and Mr. C. L. Magee moved that the ayes and nays be called; which was ordered by the Chair.

At this point Major Negley withdrew his resolution for a Convention on the 25th of April. This left the two resolutions—Fetterman's for June 6, and Mr. Bigelow's, for May 2.

The committee then proceeded to vote upon Mr. Bigelow's amendment, and the ayes and nays were taken.

The vote resulted: Yeas 54, nays 38—majority against 34. So Bigelow's resolution was defeated.

The question was then called on Mr. Fetterman's resolution providing for fourteen different conventions on the 6th of June, and it was passed by a large majority.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

Mr. Fetterman said he would now offer some resolutions, which he hoped would meet with the unanimous support of the committee. They were read as follows:

Resolved, That the Republicans of Allegheny county view with horror and detestation the criminal behavior of the late Secretary of War in accepting bribes for the appointment to offices within his gift, and we demand that he shall be brought to justice at once and subjected to the full penalties of the law.

Resolved, That we protest against the efforts of the Democrats in Congress to throw obstructions in the way of his arraignment, and to cripple the prosecution thereof, by keeping needed witnesses out of the way.

Resolved, That the Republican party have no sympathy with unfaithfulness in office—as has been shown by its readiness at all times to bring all wrong-doers to justice—and that the interests of the country demand that it shall hereafter show its determination to put up as its candidates those only who are above suspicion.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Mr. I. N. Patterson moved the appointment of a committee of five to arrange for places to hold the fourteen conventions. The motion was adopted, and the Chairman appointed the committee as follows: I. N. Patterson, Frank P. Case, Walton Woolsey, Ralph J. Richardson and Charles S. Fetterman.

Mr. Case moved the appointment of a committee to procure permanent headquarters for the committee for the campaign. Adopted, and Messrs. Case, Bigelow and Matthews were appointed.

Adjourned.

GAS FROM THE WELLS.

Meeting of Iron Manufacturers—Arrangements for Procuring Gas from the Delameter and Burns Wells.

It has been stated before that a number of our manufacturers had in contemplation a project for bringing gas from the Delameter and Burns wells to this city to be used as fuel in the manufacture of iron and steel. Last evening a meeting was held for the purpose of taking further and more definite action on the subject, at which the following firms were represented: Dilworth, Porter & Co., Clark & Co., Clarke, Brown & Co., Carnegie Bros., Painter & Sons, Brown & McIntosh, Hemphill & Co., and others.

It was decided to construct a pipe line from the wells mentioned, said line to be 35 miles in length, the pipe to be of the following sizes: First seven miles, 7 inches; second seven miles, 8 inches; third seven miles, 9 inches; fourth seven miles, 10 inches, and fifth seven miles, 12 inches. The line is to cross the Allegheny river at the Sharpsburg bridge and extend along the line of the Allegheny Valley Railroad down to Thirty-third street.

The company will start on a capital of $300,000, which is nearly that amount has been subscribed. The contract for the pipe and the laying of the same has been closed, and the work will be commenced immediately and pushed to completion as rapidly as possible. It is expected by the parties interested that the gas from the wells will be in use at their mills within five months.

It is understood that Messrs. Kirk & Dilworth, who control the wells, have undertaken, for a stipulated sum, to lay the pipe and convey the gas to the point indicated. Cast iron pipes with bell joints will be used, which, it is said, are cheaper and more durable than pipes made of wrought iron.

A Rose Michel Episode.

(New York Correspondence of the Washington Capital.)

The *Rose Michel* of the Union Square Theater—Miss Eytinge (Mrs. Butler)—has a little son of remarkable cleverness, who has not until the other day been permitted to visit the theater. He sat intent through the first act of the play, but when the scene came in which *Pierre Michel* and his wife have their exciting controversy, Frank's eyes filled, and he leaned forward and shouted lustily with his small voice, "I don't want that man to speak so to my mamma!" The house—it was a ladies' one, being a matinee—came down at this unexpected protest, and *Rose Michel* herself, overcome by the situation, "stuck dead," and took immediate action toward having the young gentleman brought around to the green room.

[From the St. Louis Globe.]

The Successful Physician.

There is probably no man so whom the community owe so much as to the honest, fair-spoken physician, who does his actual duty both to himself and to his patients. Really skillful physicians are not so numerous that their virtues need be concealed, and hence the advertisement of Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, may well claim the reader's attention. Dr. Pierce is a type of a class of men who obtain success by careful and well directed effort, not attempting to too much, or creating false ideas as to ability. The only reliable physician in these days of complicated maladies and high-pressure living is the "Specialist," the man who understands his one branch of the business. Such in his line is Dr. Pierce. For the benefit of his readers he has written a "Common Sense Medical Adviser," which is well worth reading by those who need such a work. With strict, business honor, high professional skill, reasonable fees, and a large corps of competent assistants, Dr. Pierce will doubtless make his name familiar as "household words."

PENNSYLVANIA OIL REGIONS.

Letter from Parker City—New Producing Wells and Dry Holes—Falling Off in Production—Increase in Home Consumption—Accident—The Galley Case—Sheriff's Sales.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

PARKER CITY, March 14, 1876.

Several new wells came in during the past week in this district. Prominent among them is the Richard Jennings No. 3, on the Amos Steele farm, which struck the sand on Tuesday and made several flows. As they continued to drill deeper in the sand, the flowing increased from a hundred to a hundred and fifty and afterwards to two hundred barrels a day. She is now doing about a hundred and fifty barrels. It is a significant fact that such a well attracts considerable attention at present, whereas in the height of production in this district it would have caused little notice in comparison with the heavy flowing wells, running into hundreds and thousands of barrels a day.

Another good strike has been the Brawley Brothers' well No. 3, on the Cyrus Campbell farm, below Argyle, which struck a first rate quality of sand on Wednesday last, and is now producing about sixty barrels.

The B. B. Campbell well, on the Alexander Campbell farm, was tubed on Tuesday, and is doing between fifty and sixty barrels a day.

On the W. Campbell farm, Christie & Cameron tubed their new well the early part of the week. In pumping only fifteen to twenty barrels. The farm is situated east of Patrolia.

As offsets to these, the Haslewood Oil Company have finished a new well on the Wilson Blaney farm, which has proved to be a dry hole.

On the Say farm, below Argyle, Gilman & Co. have a new well in the sand which, from present indications, will be little better than dry.

Another dry hole has befallen McKinney Brothers, during the week, on the S. Barnhart farm, near Millerstown.

Several new wells in this district are due within the next few days.

The A. B. Campbell well, on the Davore farm, on this side of the Clarion river, which was reported in the correspondence of the COMMERCIAL of the 9th inst., has been drilled deeper into the sand, very considerably increasing the flow. There are various opinionsas to the production to which the well will settle down, but, in all probability, it will be a good forty barrel well.

The entire average production for the region, last month, fell off five hundred barrels, and there is no question but that the estimates of the farms have been placed too high, as they are considerably in excess of the amount of oil moved by the pipe lines. From the present condition of stocks and rate of production, some of the heaviest producers are of the opinion that they would, but for speculative movements, range rather toward three than two dollars a barrel within the next ninety days.

The home consumption at present is more than twenty per cent. larger than at any previous time in the history of the petroleum trade. At present prices refined oil is the cheapest illuminating agent known, and is becoming, in large cities, extensively substituted for gas; while in the country it has almost entirely superseded the use of the whale oil lamp, candles and the various illuminating animal oils.

The unfortunate depression in the trade, which has been so severely felt in the oil regions for nearly three years, caused by enormous over-production and excessive accumulation of stocks, by bringing the market to less than half the cost of production, has extended the use of refined petroleum to all parts of the civilized world. The area of producing territory is, from present indications, well defined, and it appears almost impossible for the production, at the present rate of development, to exceed the legitimate demand for home and foreign consumption.

During the week heavy amounts of oil were thrown upon the market, with an intention to break it, but they were rapidly taken by buyers and the movement was only partially a success.

A sad accident occurred on Thursday afternoon at a well owned by Campbell & Brown, about a mile from here. A gas vein was struck, very unexpectedly, discharging a large quantity of the fluid with great force and rapidity. It communicated with the fire in the forge and exploded, igniting the rig, which was destroyed. Two brothers working in the derrick at the time were injured, one slightly and the other seriously, being severely burned on the face, breast and hands.

The case of John H. Galley, the oil producer, who was arrested on a warrant from Butler county, at Corry, on the 29th ult., by the Chief of Police there, was called up on *habeas corpus* at Butler last Friday. A large number of prominent oil men were present in the court room. The hearing in the case was postponed until March 20, at two o'clock in the afternoon, bail being given by John L. McKinney and William G. Scandrin in the sum of five thousand dollars. Mr. Galley's friends allege that although he has acted very imprudently, he has not intentionally done any wrong. He was generally regarded as wise to call a meeting to nominate a candidate for that office until it was seen whether there was to be a vacancy in the Treasurer's office or not.

The question was called on Mr. Bigelow's amendment for the conventions on the first Tuesday of May, and upon a division taken by the Chairman decided it was not carried.

A division was asked and Mr. C. L. Magee moved that the ayes and nays be called; which was ordered by the Chair.

At this point Major Negley withdrew his resolution for a Convention on the 25th of April. This left the two resolutions—Fetterman's, for June 6, and Mr. Bigelow's, for May 2.

The committee then proceeded to vote upon Mr. Bigelow's amendment, and the ayes and nays were taken.

The vote resulted: Yeas 54, nays 38—majority against 34. So Bigelow's resolution was defeated.

The question was then called on Mr. Fetterman's resolution providing for fourteen different conventions on the 6th of June, and it was passed by a large majority.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

Mr. Fetterman said he would now offer some resolutions, which he hoped would meet with the unanimous support of the committee. They were read as follows:

Resolved, That the Republicans of Allegheny county view with horror and detestation the criminal behavior of the late Secretary of War in accepting bribes for the appointment to offices within his gift, and we demand that he shall be brought to justice at once and subjected to the full penalties of the law.

Resolved, That we protest against the efforts of the Democrats in Congress to throw obstructions in the way of his arraignment, and to cripple the prosecution thereof, by keeping needed witnesses out of the way.

Resolved, That the Republican party have no sympathy with unfaithfulness in office—as has been shown by its readiness at all times to bring all wrong-doers to justice—and that the interests of the country demand that it shall hereafter show its determination to put up as its candidates those only who are above suspicion.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Mr. I. N. Patterson moved the appointment of a committee of five to arrange for places to hold the fourteen conventions. The motion was adopted, and the Chairman appointed the committee as follows: I. N. Patterson, Frank P. Case, Walton Woolsey, Ralph J. Richardson and Charles S. Fetterman.

Mr. Case moved the appointment of a committee to procure permanent headquarters for the committee for the campaign. Adopted, and Messrs. Case, Bigelow and Matthews were appointed.

Adjourned.

SEEKING REVENGE.

Almost a Tragedy in Johnstown—Attempt to Assassinate Anderson, the Watchman who Shot Young Kirby.

[From the Johnstown Tribune, 14th.]

About dusk last evening a daring attempt was made by one John Kirby, whose home was formerly in Millville, and who is a brother of the unfortunate young man recently killed at Hawes' cement mill by a pistol shot, to assassinate Mr. Henry Anderson, watchman at that industry, at whose hands deceased met his death.

Since Mr. Anderson's release from jail, on a writ of *habeas corpus*, he has been filling his old position as night watchman at the cement mill, giving entire satisfaction to his employer by his faithfulness, as he has always done. His trial is soon to come off at Ebensburg, and the attempt made last night by young Kirby to take the law into his own hands and punish the slayer of his twin-brother according to his own ideas of right, is severely to be condemned, and was dastardly in the extreme.

The particulars of the outrage upon law and justice are substantially as follows:

John Kirby, the attempted assassin, had been absent from his home in Millville borough for a considerable time, and only returned a day or two ago. He appeared very much excited over the death of his brother, and talked at different times of his intention to have revenge; but the full meaning of his words were not understood until last evening. At about half-past six o'clock he approached Mr. Hawes' cement mill, knowing that Mr. Anderson would be already on duty. Meeting that gentleman in the yard of the mill, he began a conversation by saying, "That was a bad affair, Mr. Anderson." Mr. A. did not know the young man, and asked him to what affair he had reference. Young Kirby replied—"Why, the killing of my brother; I am John Kirby."

Mr. Anderson noticed that the young man's eyes had a wild-beast sort of look, but he talked calmly, his voice being pitched to the tone of ordinary conversation. Anderson quietly undertook to explain to Kirby the exact manner in which the latter's brother had been killed by him. He expressed the deepest sorrow for the deed, but assured Kirby that it was entirely the result of an accident, and that between him and the victim there had always been the warmest friendship. The young man at this appeared pacified, though the wild look did not leave his eyes.

There was some little further conversation between the two, when Kirby, with a perceptible shiver, complained of feeling very cold. Mr. Anderson kindly suggested that he enter the boiler-room of the works, where he could warm himself, and at once proceed to lead the way to that portion of the building. Kirby following closely behind him. When Anderson had reached the door of the boiler-room the latter turned suddenly, to motion the young man inside, when he was horrified to see a pistol pointed directly at his head, held in the hand of Kirby, whose face was deathly pale. Quick as thought, Anderson jumped aside, and simultaneously came the report, followed by the hissing words: "Take that, you d—ed s. o. b.—." The bullet passed so close to Anderson's head that for a moment he imagined himself shot, but soon found that the deadly missile had gone harmlessly through the building. Kirby, without waiting to ascertain the result of his daring attempt to assassinate a fellow-man.

Mr. Anderson came up to town immediately after the occurance, and made a criminal information before Squire Lutz, of the Sixth ward, charging John Kirby with an attempt to commit murder. A warrant was at once issued for Kirby's arrest, but although the officers of the law have been unremitting in their search for him, his whereabouts is at present unknown.

This is a most outrageous occurrence, and if young Kirby should be captured he will likely be dealt with severely. It is to be hoped that he may be speedily taken.

Mr. Clymer Needs a Cooper.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Once upon a time Mrs. Malone went to her neighbor, Mrs. O'Flannagan, to borrow her tub, and learned that Mrs. O'F. would gladly lend that same tub if it had not been that "Pat, Murphy, the shafe," had stolen it a month before, and she had never set eyes on it since. Moreover, she had "lint" that same tub to Mrs. McGuire last "wake," and it had not yet been returned, besides which Mrs. O'F. had lost the use of it, for want of wather, and the devil a bit of a place to impty it," and the hoops had fallen off "while Jimmy had the mawsels," the bottom dropped out while she was using it. It is to staves into the bargain, to which preliminary reasons for not lending that tub was another, to wit: that she had not now and never had a tub.

Are not Mr. Clymer and his fellow-committeemen very much like Mrs. O'Flannagan, in having reasons enough and to spare? Surely, one of them might have been sufficient and any one of those they offer would be all the better for the want of all the others.

Now, Mr. Belknap's cousin Blackburn, who, after all, is not her cousin, but only used to be in the days when she had plenty of good clothes, is happy to be known as one who has "followed a" that an honest man could to shield from criticism and censure an innocent woman."

If Mr. Blackburn still thinks Mrs. Belknap an innocent woman, he will be an important witness for the defense, but needs to explain why he did not, as an honorable man, detain the man who has so grievously slandered her. How could an honorable man permit this maligner of the innocent to walk off, leaving his slanders uncontradicted, and in full possession of the public ear? Then again, Mr. Clymer did not do so, and does still believe, "that there was no legal power in the committee to have detained Marsh, and that his detention, by the committee, would have been an outrage and wrong." Then Mr. Clymer does believe that illegal detention is an outrage, and that outrage is wrong. Still he wishes to stand, that the majority of the committee, when the witness Marsh left the room, had made the slightest suggestion that he should be detained, neither himself nor any other member of the committee would have made the slightest objection."

Mr. Clymer would not, of his own motion, commit an outrage, but if any one had made the slightest suggestion in favor of such outrage, neither Mr. Clymer nor any other member of the committee would have made the slightest objection. It was hoped that, she might after marriage return to the Episcopal Church. No time had been named for the wedding, but it was vaguely set down for the spring. A thoughtful party in the interests of the country demand that it shall hereafter show its determination to put up as its candidates those only who are above suspicion.

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Adjourned.

GAS FROM THE WELLS.

Meeting of Iron Manufacturers—Arrangements for Procuring Gas from the Delameter and Burns Wells.

It has been stated before that a number of our manufacturers had in contemplation a project for bringing gas from the Delameter and Burns wells to this city to be used as fuel in the manufacture of iron and steel. Last evening a meeting was held for the purpose of taking further and more definite action on the subject, at which the following firms were represented: Dilworth, Porter & Co., Clark & Co., Clarke, Brown & Co., Carnegie Bros., Painter & Sons, Brown & McIntosh, Hemphill & Co., and others.

It was decided to construct a pipe line from the wells mentioned, said line to be 35 miles in length, the pipe to be of the following sizes: First seven miles, 7 inches; second seven miles, 8 inches; third seven miles, 9 inches; fourth seven miles, 10 inches, and fifth seven miles, 12 inches. The line is to cross the Allegheny river at the Sharpsburg bridge and extend along the line of the Allegheny Valley Railroad down to Thirty-third street.

The company will start on a capital of $300,000, which is nearly that amount has been subscribed. The contract for the pipe and the laying of the same has been closed, and the work will be commenced immediately and pushed to completion as rapidly as possible. It is expected by the parties interested that the gas from the wells will be in use at their mills within five months.

It is understood that Messrs. Kirk & Dilworth, who control the wells, have undertaken, for a stipulated sum, to lay the pipe and convey the gas to the point indicated. Cast iron pipes with bell joints will be used, which, it is said, are cheaper and more durable than pipes made of wrought iron.

A Rose Michel Episode.

(New York Correspondence of the Washington Capital.)

The *Rose Michel* of the Union Square Theater—Miss Eytinge (Mrs. Butler)—has a little son of remarkable cleverness, who has not until the other day been permitted to visit the theater. He sat intent through the first act of the play, but when the scene came in which *Pierre Michel* and his wife have their exciting controversy, Frank's eyes filled, and he leaned forward and shouted lustily with his small voice, "I don't want that man to speak so to my mamma!" The house—it was a ladies' one, being a matinee—came down at this unexpected protest, and *Rose Michel* herself, overcome by the situation, "stuck dead," and took immediate action toward having the young gentleman brought around to the green room.

[From the St. Louis Globe.]

The Successful Physician.

There is probably no man so whom the community owe so much as to the honest, fair-spoken physician, who does his actual duty both to himself and to his patients. Really skillful physicians are not so numerous that their virtues need be concealed, and hence the advertisement of Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, may well claim the reader's attention. Dr. Pierce is a type of a class of men who obtain success by careful and well directed effort, not attempting to too much, or creating false ideas as to ability. The only reliable physician in these days of complicated maladies and high-pressure living is the "Specialist," the man who understands his one branch of the business. Such in his line is Dr. Pierce. For the benefit of his readers he has written a "Common Sense Medical Adviser," which is well worth reading by those who need such a work. With strict, business honor, high professional skill, reasonable fees, and a large corps of competent assistants, Dr. Pierce will doubtless make his name familiar as "household words."

A NEW YORK ROMANCE.

Off With the New Love and on With the Old.

(New York Correspondence St. Louis Republican.)

A few weeks since one of our metropolitan families was engaged in a quiet, elegant family, of good morals and considerable wealth, with the entire approbation of both families. True, the young woman is a Roman Catholic (a convert) and the young man a Protestant, but this was overlooked, as it was hoped that, she might after marriage return to the Episcopal Church. No time had been named for the wedding, but it was vaguely set down for the spring. A thoughtful party in the interests of the country demand that it shall hereafter show its determination to put up as its candidates those only who are above suspicion.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS.

MOODY AND SANKEY; an Authentic Account of Their Lives and Services; with portraits. By Frank M. Bird, editor of the *Beaver Valley News*, New Brighton, Pa. New York: E. J. Hale & Son.

This little volume presents in compact shape truthful sketches of the lives of the distinguished revivalists, Moody and Sankey, and will meet the demand for a cheap and reliable work of the kind. Being well acquainted with and for many years the intimate friend of Mr. Sankey, Mr. Reader has written from personal knowledge; and his sketch of the "sweet singing soloist" has received the indorsement of that gentleman's family and friends. He is also intimately acquainted with Mr. Moody's career, and the sketch of his life has been suggested and revised by his friends. The book contains a complete record, chronologically arranged, of the work of the revivalists in Great Britain, full enough for all purposes, yet so condensed as not to be tedious. Agents will find it a good book to sell. It may be had by addressing the author or the publishers, as indicated above.

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 15, 1876.

The financial situation continued unchanged to-day, discount rates on prime bills being quite easy. The offerings of prime paper were not large, while the counter business in deposits and checking was moderate. Exchange was in abundant supply and ruled rather easy. Dealings in stocks and securities of all classes were quiet and presented no news of interest.

—The latest advices concerning the failure of the National Bank of the State of New York show it to have been the result of a most remarkable degree of mismanagement, which even if not wilful and intentional is almost criminal in its character. The facts show that the funds of the bank were recklessly loaned to further the private interests of its Vice President, a single firm of no high standing in which he was interested having had accommodation to the extent of $800,000 on security worth about a quarter of the amount. The depositors will not suffer except from the delay which it is thought need not be very great. Concerning the failure the New York *Bulletin* says, in ending an editorial on the subject:

That such loans could have been made by such a bank needs more explanation than has yet been given. Some great change must have come over the spirit of its recent management, or these things could never have occurred. It is not so much generally careless management that is to be assigned as the cause of the trouble, but that enormous advances appear to have been made to two or three parties for purposes that never should have been encouraged by a bank. The bank has plainly been used for private purposes, and that to the extent of considerably over half the amount of its capital. Its ordinary commercial losses have not been serious enough to cause it any great embarrassment, and its failure therefore carries no special implication against the general status of commercial accounts among our banks, and has caused no indiscriminate distrust. The bank has failed though what books were made from a gross misappropriation of a very large amount of its funds, which the stockholders will no doubt look into, and its moral, so far as it has any, points mainly to the character of bank management.

—Sober second thought, and a little additional study of the subject, will convince all intelligent and fair-minded men that the hasty repeal of the Bankrupt law would be an undoubted calamity to the country. The law, or rather the conglomeration of the laws that would obtain should the advocates of repeal have their way, might suit some of the giants of trade who have connections everywhere, but it would destroy the facilities now open to smaller firms without such advantages for recovering their debts. The repeal would injure American credit abroad, and paralyze all efforts to raise money among foreign financiers for the development of our railroad system and other great enterprises. With a uniform law, even as it stands to-day, their is some security for their protection. With its destruction, they would naturally have nothing to do with anything which might involve its participation in trouble with conflicting and vexatious local legislation.

What is undoubtedly required to render our bankrupt system one of the best possible is to lessen the premium to dishonest bankruptcy which is afforded by its last amended provisions. We have heretofore alluded to these provisions, so that we need not take up space with them now. We also see it suggested by the New York *Journal of Commerce* that provision should be taken for greater uniformity of procedure in the United States courts. The English law is run in the London Bankruptcy Court, and for Sir James Bacon, and as laid down there, governs the procedure at all the provincial courts in the country. The act of 1869 has 319 general rules and 136 forms. In 1871 it was amended by twenty-eight new rules and seven new forms. There are also sixty-four rules for composition or arrangement with creditors. We have in all thirty-seven rules and general orders, and only one rule in composition, and that only authorizes composition, without instructions as to the mode of procedure. Our act, except in one cl

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1876.

THE foreign exports of Philadelphia last week amounted to $984,780.

THE exports from Boston last week were remarkably heavy, amounting in value to nearly $1,500,000.

THE Democratic leaders in Congress are like the Irishman in deep water who replied, on being told to swim, "How can I swim sure when I have no footholt?" There is no foothold for them.

THE Chairman of the Democratic State Executive Committee of North Carolina is in trouble. The United States Commissioner has just issued warrants for the arrest of himself and the Commissioners of Robeson county for conspiracy and changing the election returns of that county, at the last election, whereby the Republicans were defrauded out of their majority in the State.

THE Reformed Episcopal Church movement seems to be making as steady progress in Canada as on this side of the border. It is but a little more than a year ago since the first church was organized, and now there are some twelve or fifteen congregations, all of them in a flourishing and prosperous condition. The movement there is gaining strength beyond the most sanguine hopes of all concerned.

CONGRESSMAN ROBBINS, of North Carolina, sticks firmly to his old $XX price as a corruptionist. It now turns out that he also received $XX from General LITTLEFIELD, the great North Carolina railroad thief, according to ROBBINS' own admission, after LITTLEFIELD had testified to it before the House of Representatives of North Carolina. ROBBINS is a champion political purist and Democratic "investigator."

THE New York *Journal of Commerce* draws discouraging conclusions from the February imports at that port, the decrease being $9,000,000, as compared with last year. The loss to the revenue is perhaps to be regretted, but the primary fact which the falling off indicates—that we are gradually becoming more and more independent of European mills and manufactories —will in the end more than compensate for the loss.

THE question whether a congregation which changes its ecclesiastical relations can carry with it the church property has just been adjudicated in the case of the Emanuel Reformed Episcopal church at Louisville. The Chancellor decides that the donors of the property, having given it in trust to the Protestant Episcopal Church, even a subsequent change of purpose on their part could not divest the trust and change the ownership.

A VERY sensible provision relating to poisoned liquors was incorporated into the new Constitution of Colorado, which is soon to be submitted to the people. The clause makes it imperative for the General Assembly to prohibit by law the importation into the State, for the purpose of sale, of any spurious, poisonous or drugged spirituous liquors, and also the compounding or manufacture of any such liquors, except for chemical or mechanical purposes.

THE United States Supreme Court has just rendered a decision upon the legal effect of a pardon granted by the President. It is held that it restores to its recipient all rights of property lost by the offense pardoned, unless the property has, by judicial process, become vested in other persons, or exceptions to that effect were prescribed by the pardon itself. For years to come, it is likely, a great deal of litigation at the South will involve the principle thus laid down.

A CURIOUS issue in a bond case has just been decided by the United States Circuit Court of Illinois. It appears that a certain town issued bonds which were voted on the same day that the people of the State adopted a constitutional provision forbidding such issue. The Court holds that the issue was legal, so far as this point is concerned, because the Supreme Court of the State had decided that the constitutional provision took effect from and after the day it was supported by the popular vote.

ONE branch of trade, at least, is reviving. The exports of cotton goods from New York last week, were valued at a quarter of a million of dollars, or at the rate of over $13,000,000 a year. According to the New York *Mail*, this would be a larger trade, in this line, by two millions, than was done even in the exceptionally prosperous year of 1869. For fifteen years the exports of cotton goods have been small and unworthy of special notice. The revival of this branch of trade is one of the hopeful features of the business situation, and is attracting considerable attention.

THE Democratic House Committee on Naval Affairs subpœnaed ex-Secretary WELLES in the confident expectation of obtaining evidence which would enable them to create the suspicion that there is a deficit of $2,000,000 in the Navy Department accounts. To their dismay, however, he showed that there is no actual deficit whatever. The sword of GIDEON smote in a back-handed fashion, and the Committee got hurt. There is a couplet about certain foolish people who spend their useless existence—

"In dropping buckets into empty wells,
And growing old in drawing nothing up."

IT BEING understood that Hon. LORENZO DANFORD, the representative from the Steubenville (Ohio) district in Congress, will not be a candidate for re-election, Dr. J. T. UPDEGRAFF, of Jefferson County, will present himself for the succession. It is not our wont to meddle in these contests, but we cannot let pass the opportunity of saying that Dr. UPDEGRAFF is a man who would adorn and honor the place. Pure, honest and capable, he presents all the qualifications the times can demand. He spoke at several points in this county, last fall, and was everywhere hailed as an eloquent and fearless pleadar for the right. No man from abroad has ever made a better impression in this county, and every one who heard him, last fall, will be delighted to hear of his nomination, if it should be made, and of his subsequent election to Congress.

A MORE deliberate and diabolical attempt to usurp all the departments of a State government was never made on earth than is now being made by the White League impeachers in Mississippi. The Governor of that State appoints the judiciary. The Legislature is already in the hands of the Confederate Bourbons. If the Governor and Lieutenant Governor are removed from office, the Democratic President of the Senate will become Governor, and he will appoint the judges. It was to attain this object that a legitimate Republican majority of thirty thousand in a fair vote in the State was changed, by means of the Winchester rifle, to a majority of thirty thousand the other way. If this Southern question is permitted to run on unsettled much longer; if the fraud, intimidation and violence which have prevailed and still prevail in that section are not checked, it will evidently spread—for it is as contagious as leprosy in its character—until the free institutions of all those States are no more. At whatever cost, the Republicans of the South must in the ensuing election be guaranteed a fair say-so at the polls.

THE New York *Tribune* publishes an exceedingly interesting and instructive account of an excellent work accomplished by certain women in Berlin in reducing the cost of living in that city. Some ten years ago, five or six ladies of wealth and influence, finding that the cost of provisions was enormous, established several people's kitchens, restaurants where meals could be had at the retail cost of the materials alone. Three years ago these women determined to bring their charity into their own homes by forming a Housekeepers' Association, whose object should be the reduction of the cost of living, the promotion of plain and economical habits, and the improvement of the condition of servants. In 1874 there were two hundred and fifty members. Co-operative laundries, bakeries, intelligence offices, and stores for groceries, meats and provisions were opened, all under the supervision of women. At the present time the membership has grown to thousand families, and issues a weekly paper of a high order, containing its price lists, etc. The central bureau imports its supplies direct from China, France, Java, the United States, etc., and is thus enabled to supply the co-operative trade throughout Europe. Coal is also purchased wholesale by the Association. The whole of this vast and successful business enterprise is managed by women. This is as suggestive and forcible a commentary as any sermon on women's duties, work and neglected opportunities, and the women of our own country would do well to reflect upon it.

DEMOCRATS OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE.

The course of the Democrats in the House of Representatives at Washington, in refusing to let the members of the committee who investigated BELKNAP give their testimony against him before the Grand Jury, demonstrates the purpose of the Democrats in Congress to obstruct and prevent, if possible, the conviction and punishment of the corrupt ex-Secretary of War.

The dramatic effort of the Investigating Committee in bringing their report before the House and the country, was intended, as is now plain, solely for effect on the pending election in New Hampshire. It was an effort, not to bring a guilty man to justice, but to wring a party benefit out of his crime. It was a partisan trick, and not an honest proceeding in the interest of honesty and pure government.

The Republicans in Congress and in the Administration have shown an entire willingness to prosecute BELKNAP to an early conviction and to subject him to the severest punishment known to the law; but that was no part of the Democratic plan. To permit the Republicans to get all the credit of convicting and punishing a detected thief would have frustrated the hope of the Democratic leaders to make party capital out of the developments; and hence they have labored with more than their usual zeal to prevent and obstruct the prosecution of a man whom they declare guilty without a trial.

The first step in this Democratic work of obstruction was CLYMER's permission to MARSH, the main, and so far the only, witness against BELKNAP, to escape to Canada, beyond the reach of our legal tribunals. CLYMER told him to go away from Washington, well aware of the effect of his absence; and it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that he was permitted to escape so as to make BELKNAP's conviction impossible.

The second step was the refusal, on the part of the Democratic members of the Investigation Committee, to testify before the civil tribunals as to what they knew about the case; and the third step was the act of the Democratic majority of the House, by a purely party vote of 130 to 75, forbidding them to testify if summoned. The party is, therefore, on record as determined to prevent, as far as it can, the effort of the Republican authorities to enforce the laws against a notorious offender.

The excuse offered for this deliberate assistance given to BELKNAP is that the Administration had, by a Cabinet order, intimidated all witnesses by directing that all the participants in BELKNAP's crime should be prosecuted, thus terrifying them into staying away from Washington; but this is too flimsy a veil to hide the schemes of the Democratic plotters. In the first place, no such order was ever issued, nor was it ever contemplated; and in the second place, MARSH had run off and found refuge in Canada *before* the Cabinet met to consult upon the case. No intimidation was attempted; and MARSH was got out of the way, by the Democratic leaders, solely for the purpose of obstructing the prosecution.

The odium of BELKNAP's crime has thrown upon the Republicans because he was a member of what should have been a Republican Cabinet; but the odium of obstructing and defeating a prosecution of the criminal must rest upon the Democrats. They do not want him tried; and if he is tried, they do not want him convicted. If he should be acquitted for want of material and legal evidence against him, they will be held responsible for the escape of the needed witnesses, no matter how hard they may try to make party capital out of the failure of the trial brought about through their connivance and assistance.

There may be, and doubtless are, some political reasons for this Democratic dread of BELKNAP's conviction. He was originally a Democrat, and married into a Rebel Democratic family in Kentucky; his attorneys and counsellors are eminent Democratic lawyers, and his most active helper in getting MARSH to fly the country was HIESTER CLYMER, his college classmate and intimate social companion. All these things go together, and go a long way towards proving the Democratic purpose to shield him. But even BELKNAP could help frome some such quarter that he has telegraphed to his Iowa friends that he will be all right in a few days. If he escapes, as he now supposes, the responsibility for it must rest on other than Republican shoulders; and we grou; these facts together, now, in order that, if such a result should happen, the public may know who to blame for it.

THE election laws of the State of New York require a residence of every voter of four months in the county and thirty days in the town or precinct. This, it seems, bears very harshly upon the clergy of various denominations. The Buffalo *Express* places the number of ministers who are disfranchised by the operation of this law at fifteen hundred, and states that a petition is being circulated praying the Legislature to do this class the justice of exempting them from the requirements of the provision. Such exemption has been extended to soldiers, sailors and students, and even to paupers and prisoners. The exemption should properly be granted. The *Express* well says that the matter involves more than the question of individual rights. The State is the principal sufferer. The loss of moral and religious power in public affairs consequent upon this alienation of the representatives and active promoters of that sentiment is something no State should permit. No man is so skeptical, but that, if he is intelligent, he will admit that the community cannot afford to lose the votes and influence of the ministers of the gospel in shaping public affairs. It certainly is a step in the wrong direction if we are desirous of securing a pure and conscientious ballot. We quote:

"Society has more interest in this matter than even the clergy. We are constantly complaining that the educated and religious portion of our citizens are most reluctant to discharge their civic duties; 'we can't get the good men to take part in politics, and the scamps and dolts are left to rule and ruin us.' Here, however, is a large class of the best citizens in the community whom, by law, will not permit to vote. Not only are their votes lost, but their interest in political matters is weakened or destroyed by the constant threat of disfranchisement, that hangs like an old-fashioned sounding bell over every pulpit. It is peculiarly a nomadic profession and the law of residence operates peculiarly on it with hardships."

THE prevalent bad weather in Europe, the floods in France and Austria and the short crop in parts of Russia, all point to a heavy demand for the immense surplus of wheat now held in this country. The grain regions of the West are full of wheat and nearly bare of money. It has been impossible for farmers to get their grain to the railways, and hence the crop of last year is still largely in first hands. But to them this is likely to prove a great advantage. Had they rushed it in, the price of wheat would undoubtedly have gone down considerably. The railways, early in the season, formed a high freight combination, but the bad roads compelled the farmers not to put themselves at the mercy of the companies. Hence, during the winter the price of wheat has varied only a very little from one dollar a bushel, while corn has generally ranged a little above forty cents. Navigation will now soon be opened, and the farmers will reap the benefit of water freight. Of course no one can tell what prices are to rule during the next few months, but with water transit and a fair demand they are pretty sure to be satisfactory, the more so from the causes above enumerated. In any event, the West has an abundance of food of all kinds, and the world must have it. The number of cattle and hogs marketed is nearly up to former figures, and prices have been very considerably above the average. The people of those States have for a long time been far more prosperous than those of any other section of the Union, and every prospect seems to promise a continuance of that prosperity for an indefinite period in the future.

THE foreign commerce returns of New York for the first two months of the calendar year, just published, give a total importation of $57,733,589, a decrease of $4,021,021 compared with the corresponding period last year, and $8,024,735 compared with 1874. The aggregate importations for the past eight months of the fiscal year amount to $206,141,766, as against $236,861,425 for the corresponding period last year, and $243,268,179 in 1874. The total exportations of January and February were $46,089,631, a decrease of $5,473,906, compared with February of last year, and $3,732,988 compared with 1874. Exclusive of specie, however, the showing is somewhat different; the total merchandise exports amounting to $40,105,213, an increase of $2,701,625 over February of last year and a decrease of $4,076,036 compared with 1874. The total exports from July 1 to March 1 amount to $198,235,543, as against $223,675,325 last year, and $231,420,520 in 1874. Exclusive of specie, the aggregate was $175,049,813, as against $177,911,912 and $204,938,773 in 1875 and 1874 respectively. The revenue from customs shows a very marked decline, the decrease for the two months being upwards of two and a quarter millions as compared with last year. The next three months will probably show an increase in the import business, on account of the Centennial celebration.

AMONG the various matters of public interest that have been overshadowed or thrust aside in Congress by the BELKNAP excitement, are several measures pertaining to public lands. The Committee on Public Lands reported seven or eight bills on Tuesday, and the discussion over them was as brief and unimpassioned as could be, attracting no attention whatever. The House passed all the bills. One very important one relates to the serious question of the right of States to tax railroad lands granted by the National Government to railroads, and the decision of the House was that Nebraska and the other States interested have the right to confirm tax sales of such lands. This question has been before the courts all the way up to the Supreme Court, and decided in favor of the railroad companies. The States now come to Congress and demand the passage of such a bill. Fifteen attorneys made arguments before the Committee on Public Lands, and yet the bill went through the House in half an hour with but one-tenth of the members of that body knowing what they voted for. It is to go to the Senate and be considered in the Committee on Public Lands there, before being voted on by the Senate.

How To Do It!

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

About the coolest utterence of Washington politics, since Johnson's proposal to immediately impeach Sumner and the other pestilent fellows who were opposing "my policy," is the following extract from Knott's speech, reported in Thursday's COMMERCIAL:

"There was but one method now by which Marsh could be brought back, and that method was an impeachment. It was in the power of one man to have Marsh in Washington city in forty-eight hours. It was a simple plan, and one known to the legal profession from the earliest days of jurisprudence. If the President of the United States really, honestly and sincerely desired the impeachment, indictment and punishment of the late Secretary of War, whose enormous crimes had disgraced his own Administration and had caused every American cheek to burn with shame, all that he had to do was to give assurance to the witness Marsh that, if he would come before the tribunals and tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, he should have a free pardon, and Marsh would be in Washington in forty-eight hours. Marsh was not coming without such an assurance, and no sane man in his situation would come without such an assurance, after what had been blazoned all over the country."

So this is the only way to catch the disgraced witness.

Is Marsh a Democrat, or Clymer's cousin, that the Democratic committee put him out of harm's way, and now demand his unconditional return, preliminary to the punishment of the polished, Democratic Wolf, who has been found in a sheep skin, plundering the Republican fold?

The cool insolence of the whole plan surpasses anything since Johnson's pressure of his policy on the American people. A criminal who owes to the public a deeper atonement than the law can exact from him, is now awaiting trial, the prosecuting attorney dismisses his accomplice, the principal witness against him; and, after he is safe in a foreign land, Mr. Knott coolly proposes his advance pardon as preliminary to producing him! Phew!!

Being out of the profession, maybe I do not understand the law, but if it is what it ought to be, Heister Clymer and his committee are legally as well as morally responsible for the appearance of Marsh at that trial of Belknap, and if he cannot be compelled to produce him. The man made no secret of his intention to leave the country, in order to avoid giving testimony in the case. He openly avowed his opposition for and with the man against whom he testified, and the mistake of his friends which brought him to Washington. No one with a modicum of intelligence has ever doubted knowing that he would not, voluntarily, appear before the Court of Impeachment, yet the pretended prosecutors dismissed him! Then every other meeting plan backwith a pardon is a puerile trick, to make simple-minded folks think they still mean to prosecute, and to throw the onus of his non-appearance on the President, so as to make party capital.

Do that committee forget that Mrs. Belknap and her brother called Marsh to Washington under the influence of Blackburn, a Democratic member of the committee, was their cousin, and would prevent any definite action injurious to Belknap? Of course, Mr. Blackburn explained, and we now know that Blackburn is no relative of the Belknaps and that he had made no such promise as they supposed. One cannot help wondering how so shrewd a woman made such a mistake Her brother might have blundered in such a case without creating surprise, but that she should suppose a perfect stranger and an indignant judge was a cousin and friend on whom she could rely in such an emergency, is without precedent, and is beyond the reach of satisfactory explanation.

She had seen Marsh and tried all her arts to induce him to modify his statement, and knew that he had refused. She also knew that her brother in recalling him to appear before that committee, believing that Mr. Blackburn would prevent unpleasant results to Belknap, supposed he was powerful, since events seem to justify her confidence! Wonderful how she had the prescience to trust the committee, and how she could have found her faith on a relationship and an agreement, neither of which had any real existence! Wonder if Mrs. Belknap every had any idea that Mr. Knott is, was, might, could, would or should be her uncle Peter, and if she ever *saw him*, or if his part in the play is purely political. How true of bulying President Grant for not catching the bird he turned loose is a fine specimen of bluster, and for cool insolence, certainly surpasses anything that has appeared in print for years; we are greatly indebted to him for letting us know just how Marsh is to be caught, and exactly how long it will take to catch him. The folks who want Belknap tried and convicted know just how to do it. Get a pardon for Marsh, whom the Democratic committee dismissed, and Mr. Knott will produce him "in Washington in forty-eight hours." Only this and nothing more.

JANE GREY SWISSHELM.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

[Continued from First Page.]

He [Morton] denied it. The party had been magnanimous, and his friend [Gordon] was living monument of its magnanimity. The party had dealt magnanimously with those who fought against the Government.

Mr. SHERMAN said this was the first time since the Internal Revenue law had been passed, that a party speech, for party purposes, had been made against it. His friend [Gordon] might disclaim the intention of making a party speech, but all who had heard it would regard it as such. The revenue laws had been framed by men of both parties, honestly and faithfully. The resolutions presented by the Senator from Georgia had no business before the Senate. It was unconstitutional for the Senate to frame matters pertaining to the revenue. If the resolutions should be sent to the Committee on Finance, the Constitution prevented their consideration by that committee. He argued that the law, as it now stood, required the survey of every distillery in the country, and the internal revenue officers knew the producing capacity of every distillery. If it was discovered that a distillery was running short of its producing capacity, the law required that it should be taxed according to its producing capacity, unless a satisfactory explanation could be given. It was impossible to enforce such a law as the resolutions of the Senator from Georgia; it would be taxing a business before such business was carried on, by taxing the whisky before it was made. No one ever heard of such a thing. As to an excise corps, the people of the United States would not long tolerate any such band. The office of tax gatherer should be under the head of a bureau, and not under the head of a band, the moment fraud was suspected. The Senator [Gordon] has taken advantage of an occasion when the whole public mind is full of excitement, to create a public clamor, to excite the passions of the people, and to make Republican party had produced fraud by scheming legislation. The revenue laws had been framed honestly. The frauds were the result of the careful study of business men. Anyone, Republican or Democrat, who loved the revenue, that could not be helped, all the Republican party could do was, to find them out and punish them, and that had been done without mercy. The Democratic party had not been so vigilant in punishing the delinquents of the Treasury Department, who stole money and bonds, guns and ammunition, who pardoned, and who acquitted him? The Republican party had been too lenient in giving to adversaries political power, and some of the worst traitors to the country came from that section.

Mr. GORDON said that when he introduced his resolutions he had no conception of the scope which they would have been given them. He had no partisan motive in introducing them, and he was astonished that Senators should think proper to make the stand-up which were shown by the records of the Department. That he was not in the habit of doing so, and had come to this, that when a Southern man spoke of a wrong perpetrated upon the Government, he should be met with the statement that he occupied his seat in the Senate by the magnanimity of the Republican party, and was therefore not to mention any of the tim delinquencies of that party? The Senator from Ohio [Sherman] had made a statement worthy of him, when he said that he [Gordon] had taken advantage of this occasion to bring forward a party speech. That speech was prepared for a month, and he had been ready to speak, but was busy on the floor in the discussion of the Senate. All this bombast about the resolutions being anti-republican, was only intended to mislead the people and draw away from the frauds which have been perpetrated. He referred to his speech at Atlanta, and said he was willing to be judged by remarks there had to do with this subject. He next appealed to the record of the Democratic men of the South differed from those of the North in the past, they were not to be condemned for it. They were political issue that had been settled to the committe, the two subjects had been a matter of discussion for the past thirty years. The issue had been declaring the State admitted, without any further action on the part of Congress. The yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted—yeas 35, nays 15. Those voting in the negative were: Messrs. Allison, Anthony, Eaton, Edmunds, Frelinghuysen, Key, Morrill, Morrill, Sargent, Wallace, Cockrell, Bogy and others. Mr. Cockrell submitted an amendment providing that the Governor of each territory should be ex-officio a member of the Territorial Legislature, and that the Governor should be published in four newspapers in the Territory at least sixty days prior to the date of the election. Agreed to. The bill was then read as follows: That the bill now pending which provides that the Constitution, to be framed by the people of the Territory for their ratification or rejection, at an election to be held in November next, and if said Constitution is ratified the acting Governor shall certify the same to the President of the United States, who, if he approves the same, by proclamation